



March 16, 2021

The Honorable Lucille Roybal–Allard  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nydia Velazquez  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Yvette Clarke  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswomen Roybal–Allard, Velazquez, and Clarke:

On behalf of the American College of Physicians (ACP), I am writing to express our strong support for the Dream and Promise Act of 2021, H.R. 6, which would provide a pathway to U.S. citizenship for undocumented individuals who were brought to the United States when they were only children, who are also known as the “Dreamers.” We appreciate your introduction of this legislation and urge its passage in the House of Representatives so that these individuals can continue their enriching contributions—such as being medical students, residents, fellows, and practicing physicians—to the only country they have known as their home.

ACP is the largest medical specialty organization and the second largest physician group in the United States. ACP members include 163,000 internal medicine physicians (internists), related subspecialists, and medical students. Internal medicine physicians are specialists who apply scientific knowledge and clinical expertise to the diagnosis, treatment, and compassionate care of adults across the spectrum from health to complex illness.

Although ACP was pleased by the 2020 U.S. Supreme Court decision that vacated the 2017 U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) rescission of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, that decision did not afford DACA recipients permanent legal status. The lack of statutory certainty that only Congress can provide DACA individuals threatens to deny the United States the talents of more than half a million individuals who are making enormous contributions to our country, and will particularly undermine public health and medical education. Without the permanent legal status that only Congress can ultimately decide, we remain greatly concerned about the possible future deportation of undocumented medical students, residents, fellows, practicing physicians, and others who came to the United States through no fault of their own due to the changing political winds of an election cycle. Without the full protections afforded to them by the Dream and Promise Act, these students and physicians could potentially be forced to discontinue their studies or their medical practice

and may be deported. We are especially troubled by the plight of these individuals because they are needed in the medical field to treat an increasingly racially and ethnically diverse patient population and have the background to fulfill the cultural, informational, and linguistic needs of patients. That is why we urge Congress to act immediately to pass this legislation to protect the status of Dreamers to ensure that they are not deported either now or in the future.

The Dream and Promise Act would grant Dreamers conditional permanent resident status for ten years and cancel removal proceedings if they, “Have been continuously physically present in the U.S. on or before January 1, 2021; were 18 years or younger on the initial date of entry into the U.S.; Graduate from high school, obtain a GED or industry recognized credential, or are in a program assisting students in obtaining a high school diploma, GED or equivalent exam, or in an apprenticeship program; pass security and law enforcement background checks, pay a reasonable application fee, and register for the Selective Service if required.”<sup>1</sup>

In addition, in order to gain lawful permanent resident (LPR) status under this bill, Dreamers must, “Acquire a degree from a U.S. institution of higher education; or complete at least two years in good standing in a bachelor’s or higher degree program or in an area career and technical education program at a post-secondary level in the U.S.; or complete at least two years of military service, and if discharged, received an honorable discharge; or be employed for periods of time totaling at least three years and at least 75 percent of the time that the person has had employment authorization.”<sup>2</sup>

This bill would also grant individuals with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) or Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) LPR status and cancel removal proceedings if they, “have been in the United States for a period of three years before this bill’s enactment; and were eligible or had TPS on September 17, 2017, or had DED status as of January 20, 2021.”<sup>3</sup>

We urge the House to approve the Dream and Promise Act to ensure that Dreamers can continue to live, work, and study in this country and begin a pathway to citizenship. We look forward to working with you pass this legislation.

Sincerely,



Jacqueline W. Fincher, MD, MACP  
President

---

<sup>1</sup> H.R. 6, the Dream and Promise Act of 2021. Accessed at [https://roybalallard.house.gov/uploadedfiles/dream\\_and\\_promise\\_act\\_of\\_2021\\_fact\\_sheet\\_03032021.pdf](https://roybalallard.house.gov/uploadedfiles/dream_and_promise_act_of_2021_fact_sheet_03032021.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.