June 3, 2019

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I am writing to urge you to support H.R. 6, the “Dream and Promise Act of 2019.” This much needed legislation to protect immigrants is long overdue. Under H.R. 6 immigrants with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) will be granted a path to citizenship.

These two groups of immigrants contribute tens of billions to our American economy, including over $17 billion in federal taxes, and over $9 billion in state and local taxes. They also account for $75 billion in spending power through white- and blue-collar household earnings. In fact, over 93 percent of DACA and TPS holders are employed, refuting any misleading notion that these immigrants are a drain on our economy. To the contrary, these workers provide vital industry – knowledge and labor to businesses and local governments as well as vital spending and investments that translate to healthier markets, jobs, and public infrastructure. Further, previous studies have shown that productivity of immigrant workers increases by up to 20 percent after they become legalized and eventually citizens.

Dreamers and TPS holders are also union members, co-workers, neighbors and serve proudly in our armed forces. They have American-born children, own homes, and are an important part of our social fabric. Supporting this legislation will show you are unwilling to let these people fall back into the shadows, ultimately harming these working families and the communities they are part of. Providing a path to citizenship also means bad actor employers are less likely to exploit their status, and will be less likely to underpay them. This is important because exploitation of these workers drives down wages of all working families.

Passage of H.R. 6 is a moral imperative. AFSCME urges Congress to act now and support the “Dream and Promise Act of 2019” (H.R. 6), and reject any further excuses for inaction.

Sincerely,

Scott Frey
Director of Federal Government Affairs

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