

June 3, 2019

ACLU Urges YES Vote on H.R. 6, NO Vote on Motion to Recommit

Dear Representative:

As the House prepares to vote on H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) strongly urges you to vote YES on the bill and to vote NO on any motion to recommit that undermines it. The ACLU will score the vote on final passage and on ANY motion to recommit that would further criminalize immigrants or otherwise harm civil rights and civil liberties, or that prevents passage of the American Dream and Promise Act.

The ACLU strongly supports the American Dream and Promise Act, which would provide protection from deportation and a fair path to citizenship for more than 2 million Dreamers and immigrants eligible for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED).

The opportunity to move the American Dream and Promise Act forward is historic. The House of Representatives last passed a major legalization bill in 2010. The people who would benefit from the American Dream and Promise Act deserve a fair path to citizenship regardless of the administration, but they face heightened vulnerability under President Trump. Their lives were thrown into chaos when the administration announced the termination of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, TPS for hundreds of thousands of U.S. residents, and DED for Liberians. Dreamers, TPS and DED beneficiaries, and immigrant communities in general are living in the purgatory of an uncertain future in the United States. It is incumbent upon Congress to act to protect our neighbors, colleagues, and family members. Inaction will inevitably lead to the deportation of tens of thousands of longtime U.S. residents and thousands more family separations for mixed-status families.

The ACLU remains troubled by provisions in the bill that run counter to basic due process principles and disregard the importance of holding youth, including immigrant youth, accountable in



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developmentally appropriate ways, without lifelong consequences. In future immigration legislation, Congress must draw from the lessons learned in the important progress toward reform of the criminal system, especially in regards to efforts to strengthen due process, reduce racial disparities, and end the disproportionately harsh consequences of criminal convictions.

The bill would nonetheless benefit more than 2 million people, and it represents a crucial step toward fundamental reform of an unjust system. It is long past time for Members to make good on their commitments to provide a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. **The ACLU urges a YES vote on H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act, and a NO vote on any motion to recommit that undermines the bill.**

Please reach out to Lorella Praeli, ACLU Deputy National Political Director, with any questions at lpraeli@aclu.org.

Sincerely,

Ronald Newman
National Political Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald Newman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Lorella Praeli
Deputy National Political Director
Director of Immigration Policy and Campaigns

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lorella Praeli". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L".