

We Did It!
The DREAM & PROMISE ACT 2019
passed the House of Representatives.
Now let's get it into the Senate!

TAKE ACTION TODAY!
CONTACT YOUR SENATORS.

On June 4, 2019—after years of advocacy by immigrant rights defenders—the US House passed the Dream and Promise Act of 2019 to give permanent legal status to immigrants residing in the US with TPS (Temporary Protected Status), DED (Deferred Enforced Departure), and DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). This bill provides a path to citizenship for 2.5 million immigrants who are working, going to school, paying taxes, and raising their children. This is great news!

TAKE ACTION

Call your US senators. Tell them that you “hope they will stand up for immigrant families and urge the leadership in the Senate to introduce the Dream and Promise Act and move it along in committee. Will you let me know what the senator is doing to protect DREAMers and TPS holders?”

Senator Sherrod Brown

(216) 522-7272 - Cleveland

(202) 224-2315 - Washington, DC

www.brown.senate.gov

Senator Rob Portman

(216) 522 7095 - Cleveland

(202) 224 3353 - Washington, DC

www.portman.senate.gov

This is urgent!

Unless Congress legalizes the status of these immigrants, they could be placed into deportation proceedings, tearing families apart.

This legislation is an important part of broader immigration reform that needs to happen:

- 1- give permanent legal status to immigrants with DACA and TPS
- 2- end family separation
- 3- decrease the number of detention beds
- 4- cut the budgets for ICE and USCBP (US Customs & Border Protection)
- 5- resume discretion in immigration enforcement and prosecution

Learn what else you can do to defend immigrants in NE Ohio

Connect with the Immigration Working Group CLE, a collaborative of community advocates and organizations, including Akron Interfaith Immigrant Advocates, Cleveland Jobs with Justice, DreamActivist Ohio, Greater Cleveland Immigrant Support Network, InterReligious Task Force on Central America, Lorain Ohio Immigrant Rights Association (LOIRA), Ohio Immigrant Alliance. Ask about the group's Immigrant Defense Fund, Rapid Response Team, Bond Reduction Project, Electronic Bulletin Board (volunteer needs), visits to legislators' offices, vigils, rallies, and marches.

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Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez Says Congressmembers Were Brought to Tears as Dream and Promise Act Passed in House: "What a Moment. This Is Why We Fight"

Chantal da Silva, June 5, 2019 for Newsweek online
[emphasis added]

On Tuesday, the House Chamber felt a little more like a "rock concert," as New York Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez put it, describing the moment Congress and crowd members erupted into cheers as the American Dream and Promise Act of 2019 was passed.

"Today, after YEARS of GOP refusal, the House finally voted on the DREAM Act under a Dem majority," New York Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez wrote on Twitter, celebrating the 237-187 vote on the bill, which seeks to extend **permanent protections and a pathway to citizenship for as many as 2.5 million immigrants** in the U.S.

"The moment when it passed was like a rock concert," Ocasio-Cortez said.

But, in addition to cheers, there were also some tears shed in the landmark moment.

"The people's cheers brought many, many members to tears," Ocasio-Cortez said. "What a moment. This is why we fight."

The American Dream and Promise Act, also known as H.R.6, was spearheaded by Democratic Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard of California, and seeks to provide permanent status to undocumented immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally as minors, known as **Dreamers**, as well as to those living in the U.S. under the Temporary Protected Status (**TPS**) and Deferred Enforced Departure (**DED**) programs.

TPS is a temporary status allowing nationals who are unable to safely return to their home countries due to armed conflict, natural disaster or other extraordinary and temporary conditions, to remain in the U.S. until it is safe to return. **DED currently allows some 4,000 Liberian nationals** displaced by conflict and the Ebola crisis to live in the U.S. without fear of removal, at least until March 30, 2020 when the Trump administration has ordered a "wind-down" of the program to begin.

According to estimates from the Center for American Progress and the University of Southern California Dornsife Center for the Study of Immigration Integration, **as many as 2.5 million Dreamers, TPS holders and DED beneficiaries could be eligible** for permanent protections and a pathway to citizenship under the act.

Of the 237 Congressmembers who voted in favor of the bill, seven were Republicans, including Representatives Mario Díaz-Balart of Florida, Dan Newhouse of Washington, Don Bacon of Nebraska, Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania, Will Hurd of Texas, Christopher Smith of New Jersey and Fred Upton of Michigan.

Following the passage of H.R.6, Díaz-Balart said in a statement that while he supported the bill in a show of solidarity with efforts to protect Dreamers and TPS recipients, he was disappointed that Democratic leadership had presented a bill "that is unlikely to pass the Senate and become law."

"I have consistently worked with House Democrats and Republicans to help DREAMers, but unfortunately, these efforts have not been reciprocated by Democratic leadership," he said. "It is time to propose tangible solutions. I remain open and willing to work with my colleagues across the aisle to address the ongoing uncertainty that our DREAMers face."

Díaz-Balart's point was a fair one, given that the **Dream and Promise Act is likely to face an uphill battle in the Republican-controlled Senate**, which rejected similar immigration proposals last year.

Despite the struggle H.R.6 is likely to face in the Senate, Democratic Congressmembers and supporters of the pro-immigration bill celebrated the measure's success as a landmark moment.

"We just passed the American Dream and Promise Act!" Rep. Veronica Escobar of Texas wrote on Twitter, sharing a video of crowds cheering and chanting from the balcony of the House Chamber.

The American Civil Liberties Union also celebrated the bill's passage as a "historic victory," writing in a tweet that the House vote showed that "true justice for immigrants is possible."