

For Our Families Student Advocacy Toolkit

FIGHTING FOR A PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP FOR ALL UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

Students Are Essential in the Fight For Our Families

There are more than 5.3 million first- and second-generation immigrant students enrolled in United States colleges and universities. While this immigrant-origin student population is diverse in many ways, for most of them, their immigration story is a family story. The path forward and the movement towards a more just immigration system includes all of our families and loved ones.

We all owe our success to our families' sacrifices. Undocumented families are members of our communities and should no longer have to hide in the shadows. We all deserve the safety, certainty, and protections of citizenship. Our families belong safe and together.

On March 18, 2021 the House of Representatives passed the Dream & Promise Act (H.R. 6) and the Farm Workforce Modernization Act (H.R. 1603), bills that would provide a pathway to citizenship for approximately 4 million undocumented immigrants. Now, we turn our critical efforts to the Senate. We're calling on students across the country to join the movement to push for a pathway to citizenship for all undocumented individuals in our country. This toolkit contains suggestions for how you can play a role in helping to pass this transformative legislation both as an individual and as part of a group.

Contact Your Senators

Your senators represent you regardless of your citizenship status, and it is their responsibility to hear and respond to the concerns of their constituents. Calling is **the most effective way** to make your voice heard in Congress.

- Each state has two U.S. senators. You can find the phone numbers for their DC offices by [searching here](#).

We encourage students to contact the senators and members of Congress for both their home and school's state if they are different.

CALL CONGRESS

You can call your senators every week or even every day to express your support for a pathway to citizenship for all undocumented immigrants. Double your impact by getting a friend to make calls at the same time as you! Or, host a virtual phone bank during which many folks call their senators all in the span of a few hours and really make sure your voices are heard!

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU CALL CONGRESS

When you call members of Congress' offices you will likely end up talking to an intern who is about your age. The goal in calling is to leave a message with whoever answers the phone. That message will be shared with the member of Congress at a later point.

It's possible that the person who answers the phone will ask a few questions of whoever is calling. Most likely they will ask the caller's name and zip code to ensure that they are a constituent. They may also ask for the caller's address so that they can mail a written response to you from the member of Congress's office. We encourage you to share your zip code if asked so that the Congressional office understands that you are a constituent. You do not have to provide any other identifying information about yourself if you don't feel comfortable doing so.

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU CALL CONGRESS

- 1. Introduce yourself with your name.** If relevant you can share where you are a student or what city you live in.
- 2. Say that you are calling to urge your representative or senator to support a pathway to citizenship for all 11 million undocumented folks in the U.S.** Talk about how undocumented folks are valued and long-standing members of our communities and that many are risking their health and safety every day as essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Congress must act now, without delay, to pass a pathway to citizenship for our families.
- 3. If you'd like, share a personal anecdote** about why this issue is important to you.
- 4. Ask your representative or senators to publicly support and vote yes on pathway to citizenship legislation!**

HOSTING A VIRTUAL PHONE BANK

Consider organizing a virtual phone bank with a group you are a member of to get many people to call Congress at the same time. Below are some suggestions for a successful virtual phone bank.

- 1.** Partner with other student groups to increase participation.
- 2.** Identify a date and time.
- 3.** Schedule a video or conference call where folks can join to learn how to call Congress and what to say.
- 4.** Share the tips in this toolkit.
- 5.** Make lots of calls to Congress!

Tip: If you are organizing an event with friends and peers at your school, you can make it easy for folks to make calls by providing the contact information of the senators for your college or university.

Express Your Support On Social Media

FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM

1. Immigrants, including TPS holders and DACA recipients, make up our staff, faculty, and students who contribute to the vibrancy of campuses around the country. They are integral to the higher education system. The Senate must take action #ForOurFamilies. fwd.us/university-signup #WeAreHome

- [Click to download Facebook graphic](#)
- [Click to download Instagram graphic](#)

2. Millions of U.S. citizen students live in mixed-status families with an undocumented family member. Students' success is inextricably linked to the safety and well-being of their families. A pathway to citizenship will ensure that current and future generations of students can thrive in higher education.

The Senate must take action #ForOurFamilies. fwd.us/university-signup #WeAreHome

- [Click to download Facebook graphic](#)
- [Click to download Instagram graphic](#)

3. We need a pathway to citizenship #ForOurFamilies and loved ones. It is long past time to fundamentally repair our failed immigration system and create a pathway to citizenship for ALL undocumented immigrants so our families can remain safe and together. The Senate must take action #ForOurFamilies. fwd.us/university-signup #WeAreHome

- [Click to download Facebook graphic](#)
- [Click to download Instagram graphic](#)

4. We need a pathway to citizenship #ForOurFamilies and loved ones. Our parents deserve dignity and respect. They should no longer have to hide in the shadows. We deserve the safety, certainty, and protections of citizenship, knowing that we can stay safe and together with our families. The Senate must take action #ForOurFamilies. fwd.us/university-signup #WeAreHome

- [Click to download Facebook graphic](#)
- [Click to download Instagram graphic](#)

5. We must end the cruel practices of family separation and family detention once and for all.

Not only will this keep families like mine together and allow us to live our lives with certainty and free from fear, but it will enable us to contribute more fully to our communities. Join the fight #ForOurFamilies: fwd.us/university-signup #WeAreHome

- [Click to download Facebook graphic](#)
- [Click to download Instagram graphic](#)

Express Your Support On Social Media

TWITTER

1. Immigrants, including #TPS holders & #DACA recipients, make up staff, faculty, and students at campuses across the country, and are integral to the #HigherEd system. The Senate must take action #ForOurFamilies. fwd.us/university-signup #WeAreHome

 - Post with graphic, [click here to download](#)
2. We ALL deserve the safety, certainty, and protections of citizenship, knowing that we can stay safe and together with our families. The Senate must take action #ForOurFamilies. fwd.us/university-signup #WeAreHome

 - Post with graphic, [click here to download](#)
3. A path to citizenship is vital to the success of all American families—incl. those within #HigherEd institutions—so that everyone can fully contribute in the place we call home. The Senate must take action #ForOurFamilies. fwd.us/university-signup #WeAreHome

 - Post with graphic, [click here to download](#)
4. We won't stop fighting until we secure a pathway to citizenship for immigrant youth and ALL undocumented people. The Senate must take action #ForOurFamilies. fwd.us/university-signup #WeAreHome

 - Post with graphic, [click here to download](#)
5. We need a pathway to citizenship #ForOurFamilies and loved ones. Our parents deserve dignity and respect. They should no longer have to hide in the shadows. The Senate must take action #ForOurFamilies. fwd.us/university-signup #WeAreHome

 - Post with graphic, [click here to download](#)
6. We must end the cruel practice of family separation & detention once and for all. The Senate must take action #ForOurFamilies. fwd.us/university-signup #WeAreHome

 - Post with graphic, [click here to download](#)

