

October 27, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
U.S Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Honorable Senate Majority Leader Schumer,

We, the undersigned, write to you as California legislators to strongly urge you to ensure that the U.S Congress includes a path to citizenship for millions of undocumented residents in our nation in the federal budget reconciliation package. California alone is home to over two million undocumented immigrants and nearly one in ten California workers is undocumented. For years, our undocumented residents have said “Yes” to this country by working and contributing to their communities each day, and paying taxes, and yet, they live with deep uncertainty and endure the most burdensome socioeconomic and health outcomes. In the last few decades, California has enacted pro-immigrant legislation to advance immigrant integration, but despite all of the work we have done in the state, we cannot provide one important protection: a path to U.S. citizenship and relief from deportation. Only Congress can achieve that.

We applaud your leadership in pushing for the passage of a budget resolution in August that included immigration reform, but the job is not yet done. This is the year to win a broad path to citizenship that includes DACA and TPS recipients, essential workers, and farm workers. We must push for permanent relief for the largest number of people possible. Through your leadership, Congress has a unique opportunity to make history by enacting legislation that creates a pathway to citizenship for many immigrants in the United States. We urge you to look past the ill advice of the Senate parliamentarian, and lead the United States Senate by taking action on citizenship this year.

This is a crucial moment, where millions of immigrants living in the United States are relying on you to take a major step towards reforming our broken immigration system, lifting the constant fear of deportation for them and their family members and finally offering them an opportunity to fully integrate into our society. Aside from being the morally correct thing to do, this action would also comport with the will of the majority of the American people, 70% of whom overwhelmingly support a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. After all, the role of the Parliamentarian’s office is to advise their presiding officers as to what the precedent indicates should be the correct ruling on a pending parliamentary inquiry or point of order; the presiding officer then has the discretion of accepting or ignoring that advice.

That is to say, we must recognize that the Parliamentarian is an unelected official. The American people rely on you, whom we have elected to one of the most important offices in the country, to recognize the undeniably massive and non-incidental budgetary impact (in the billions of dollars) that legalization would create. This is exactly the kind of bold action the people demand, and it is imperative that you exercise your legitimate authority to advance the Judiciary Committee’s proposal to provide a pathway to citizenship.

The Senate Parliamentarian’s advisory opinion was riddled with flawed reasoning and consideration of irrelevant factors that “made it abundantly clear how eager she was to get to ‘no,’ despite ample precedent and a strong rationale that would allow for the immigration proposal to be included in a reconciliation bill.”¹ Not only does a pathway to citizenship satisfy the “Byrd Rule,” but it is a “perfect fit for reconciliation.”² You can and must pass a pathway to citizenship through reconciliation, even if the Parliamentarian is unable to fulfill her responsibilities.

¹<https://thehill.com/opinion/immigration/573917-senate-parliamentarian-strains-to-block-long-overdue-immigration-reform>

² <https://www.rollcall.com/2021/08/20/immigration-reform-is-a-perfect-fit-for-budget-reconciliation/>

California mobilized to help ensure that the White House, Senate, and House of Representatives would be led by those who reject hatred and embrace progress. Most recently, the power of California voters came together to defeat hate in our own home state and defeat a recall of our Governor. Together, the White House and Congress now have the unique opportunity to deliver on a policy that over 70% of Americans strongly support -- an opportunity that we cannot allow an unelected Parliamentarian to derail.

As the Senate Majority Leader, you have the power to clear the path for legislation that will transform the lives of millions of undocumented immigrants, their families, their communities, and the entire country.

Sincerely,



California Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon



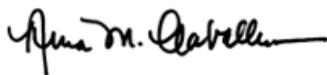
Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula,
31st Assembly District




Assemblymember Mia Bonta,
18th Assembly District



Assemblymember Lisa Calderon,
57th Assembly District



State Senator Anna Caballero,
12th Senate District



Assemblymember David Chiu
17th Assembly District



Assemblymember Wendy Carrillo
51st Assembly District



State Senator Maria Elena Durazo,
24th Senate District



Assemblymember Cristina Garcia,
58th Assembly District



Assemblymember Mike A. Gipson,
64th Assembly District



Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez,
80th Assembly District



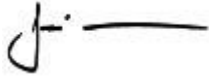
State Senator Ben Hueso,
40th Senate District



Assemblymember Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer,
Sr.,
59th Assembly District



Assemblymember Ash Kalra
27th Assembly District



Assemblymember Jose Medina,
61st Assembly District



Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva,
65th Assembly District



Assembly Majority Leader Eloise Reyes,
47th Assembly District



Assemblywoman Luz Rivas,
39th Assembly District



Assemblymember Robert Rivas
30th Assembly District



Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez,
52nd Assembly District



Assemblymember Blanca E. Rubio,
48th Assembly District



State Senator Susan Rubio,
22nd Senate District



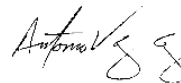
Assembly Member Miguel Santiago,
53rd Assembly District



Assemblymember Rudy Salas Jr.,
32nd Assembly District



Assemblymember Carlos Villapudua,
13th Assembly District



Chair Antonio Vazquez,
CA State Board of Equalization, 3rd District
Member

CC:

House Speaker, Nancy Pelosi, House of Representatives

Senator Alex Padilla, United States Senate