

December 02, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable James E. Clyburn  
Majority Whip  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Hoyer, and Majority Whip Clyburn,

Thank you for your leadership that has been essential in protecting lives and livelihoods in the face of multiple compounding challenges. As newly elected members of Congress, we're ready to work with you on the most pressing issues impacting our constituents when our terms begin on January 3, 2022. For months as we spoke with voters across America, we heard from families struggling to meet rising costs for basics like food, housing, and child care – and many of those who shared their personal experiences with us are one of the hundreds of thousands of undocumented young people whose lives and livelihoods hang in the balance because of 30 years of inaction in Congress and the impending end of the DACA program. The impact of these policy choices is felt in every district of our country, and while we will continue this work in every branch and at every level of government in the 118th Congress, we have an opportunity and a responsibility now in the legislative branch. The needs of working families are too urgent to wait while Democrats currently have the majority in both chambers of Congress. As you continue the critical work of engaging with the Senate to negotiate an end of year legislative package that will be able to pass both chambers, which will require bipartisan support, we are adding our voices to the growing chorus supporting legislative action on three essential priorities before the 117th Congress concludes.

### **The Expanded Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit**

As families face rising costs and the toll of corporate profiteering, we are calling on our colleagues in Congress to help mitigate this hardship by extending two programs that made a demonstrable difference last year due to their swift leadership on COVID relief— the expanded

Child Tax Credit (CTC) and the expanded Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Empowering our families is how we empower our communities, and these two expanded tax credits gave families and workers the flexible, direct assistance they needed and continue to need. By making the CTC fully refundable, an [estimated 19 million children earned the full credit](#) who had previously earned too little to be eligible for the full credit, including children in mixed status families. By distributing these CTC payments on a monthly basis, it led to an increase in food security among households with children, and drove a nearly 50% poverty reduction nationwide. We urge you to reinstate these expanded, impactful programs no later than the end of this year to ensure this relief for our families. Prioritizing everyday community members in our tax code over corporate tax breaks is fundamental to supporting the care economy we all rely upon, from infancy, in sickness, and through our senior years.

### **Child Care**

Before our majority in the House transitions, it is critical that the most comprehensive and inclusive final spending bill is passed and enacted that allocates federal resources where they are needed. We ask that you pass Fiscal Year 2023 appropriations legislation with the largest possible investments in early childhood programs that our constituents depend on. This includes an additional \$4.4 billion for Head Start and an additional \$6.17 billion for Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) above the enacted FY2022 funding levels. The *American Rescue Plan*, which passed both the House and Senate solely with Democrat votes through the reconciliation process before being signed into law by President Biden, provided a critical lifeline to child care providers and families, preventing a near-total collapse of [our child care system](#). But as that short term relief expires, states face grave shortfalls. These FY2023 investments will be critical for stabilizing our child care system as we continue to work towards long term investments that reflect the full scope and scale of our national need for universal, high-quality child care from the start.

### **Enacting the Dream and Promise Act for Immigration Action**

Our moral and civic duty to holistically support all children's health and wellness is inseparable from our immigration policies. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients are now parents themselves to 300,000 U.S. citizen children.

A bipartisan solution to provide relief to undocumented immigrant youth and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients is sorely needed. In recent months, the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals declared the original 2012 DACA policy unlawful, which has set the stage for this incredibly successful and popular program to be struck down by conservative courts. Resolution of this issue is of critical importance to America, as the futures of many of our families and community members hang on by the thinnest of judicial threads.

This issue goes beyond the current 600,000 recipients, as DACA has been closed to initial applications for the better part of the last 5 years, leaving 400,000 potentially eligible immigrant youth without recourse. Further compounding the need for comprehensive immigration action is the fact that the majority of the 100,000 young people coming of age every year only to find they would not be eligible for the benefits of DACA even if it were open due to arbitrary and now outdated cut off dates, resulting in the exclusion of those it was meant to protect.

Senate Republicans and Congressional Democrats now have an opportunity to address this issue once and for all during the so-called Lame Duck session of the 117th Congress. We urge you to work together on a way forward and prioritize the House-passed, Dream and Promise Act in any end-of-year package. It may well be now or never for Dreamers.

We are grateful to our colleagues in the 117th Congress who have advanced and delivered life-saving results felt across our communities. We are a diverse and rooted class of incoming U.S. Representatives who share many of the lived experiences our communities are counting on us not to dismiss or delay, including as members of mixed status families, as working class, and as caregivers. We urge you to use every tool and opportunity at your disposal to deliver on three critical and yet unresolved priorities before then: extending the expanded CTC and EITC, funding essential investments in the care economy, and enacting the Dream and Promise Act.

Thank you for your full consideration and partnership.

Sincerely,

Representative-Elect Delia Ramirez (IL-03)  
Representative-Elect Becca Ballint (VT-At Large)  
Representative-Elect Greg Casar (TX-35)  
Representative-Elect Maxwell Frost (FL-10)  
Representative-Elect Robert Garcia (CA-42)  
Representative-Elect Summer Lee (PA-12)  
Representative-Elect Jonathan Jackson (IL-01)  
Representative-Elect Jill Tokuda (HI-02)  
Representative-Elect Morgan McGarvey (KY-03)  
Representative-Elect Sydney Kamlager (CA-37)

CC:

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, Democratic Caucus Chair  
The Honorable Katherine Clark, Assistant Speaker  
The Honorable Pete Aguilar, Democratic Caucus Vice Chair