

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Kamala Harris  
Vice President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
United States House of Representatives  
U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear President Biden, Vice President Harris, Majority Leader Schumer, and Speaker Pelosi,

As Jewish organizations that collectively represent millions of American Jews, we urge you to prioritize the inclusion of a pathway to citizenship for immigrant youth, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders, essential workers, and their families, in any economic recovery or infrastructure legislation that moves forward via budget reconciliation. As we continue to confront a public health and economic crisis that has claimed more than 500,000 lives and exacerbated deep racial and economic inequities, it is vital that we include protections for immigrant workers to secure the health of our nation and to lay the foundation for an equitable recovery.

As Jews, we are taught that each person is created *b'tzelem elohim*, in the divine image. Each of us is equally deserving of the opportunity to prosper in safety. Our Jewish history and values power our steadfast belief that our immigrant community members, friends, neighbors, and families contribute greatly to the fabric of our country, and those who have continued to put their lives on the line to provide for our communities during this deadly pandemic deserve to be given a pathway to citizenship.

An estimated [five million](#) undocumented immigrants, including [202,500](#) DACA recipients and [131,300](#) TPS holders, serve our country everyday as essential workers. Nearly [20](#) percent of all undocumented essential workers work in the essential retail sector, including in restaurants and grocery stores. Over [400,000](#) are healthcare workers, serving us and our loved ones as doctors, nurses, and home health aides, or working in key jobs that keep health care settings up and running. About [660,000](#), nearly 12 percent, are in the essential services industry, which includes landscaping and child care service. Undocumented essential workers have stepped up to serve our country in a time of crisis, and have been central to keeping our country moving and healthy during this this historic, tragic time. They should be able to apply for U.S. citizenship.

Permanent protection for individuals who live under the fear of detention and deportation, as well as the constant threat of exploitation, is not just the moral action but also the most sensible choice. Living with so much uncertainty only harms these crucial workers, as well as our community and our economy more broadly. Pathways to citizenship for essential workers and their families, Dreamers and TPS holders are [inextricably linked](#) to America's recovery as they would increase wages and productivity throughout the U.S. economy, create jobs, generate additional tax revenue, strengthen worker protections for immigrant and native workers alike, and lift many families out of poverty.

Immigrant justice is especially personal to the American Jewish community, many of whom owe

our lives to the fact that we or an ancestor was able to immigrate to this country. The Jewish population in America is diverse and complex, including by race, gender, orientation, ability, and immigration status. Even now, undocumented Jews working in essential industries like healthcare fear that their ability to continue aiding and caring in this challenging time might be cut short.

Jewish tradition instills in us a commitment to protecting the oppressed and welcoming the outsider. We have a long history of active engagement in supporting immigrants and refugees. We are united in our belief that we, as a society, share a moral and civic duty to help create the same opportunities for those who seek to share in the American Dream.

Again, we urge you to include a pathway to citizenship for immigrant youth, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders, essential workers, and their families, in any economic recovery or infrastructure legislation that moves forward via budget reconciliation, in order to ensure a robust recovery that is inclusive and equitable for all Americans regardless of their immigration status. Immigrant workers and their families are vital to the fabric of our nation - it is time our government acts accordingly.

If we can provide any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Alex Goldman, Assistant Washington Director of Bend the Arc: Jewish Action ([agoldman@bendthearc.us](mailto:agoldman@bendthearc.us)).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**National Organizations:**

ALEPH: Alliance For Jewish Renewal  
Ameinu  
Anti-Defamation League  
Avodah  
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action  
Cultural and Secular Jewish Organization (CSJO)  
HIAS  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
Jewish Labor Committee  
Jewish Women International  
Jewish World Watch  
Jewtina y Co.  
Keshet  
National Council of Jewish Women  
Rabbinical Assembly  
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association  
T'ruah  
The Workers Circle  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Uri L'tzedek

**State, Regional, and Local Organizations:**

Arizona Jews For Justice  
As the Spirit Moves Us

Bend the Arc: Jewish Action Austin  
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action Champaign-Urbana  
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action Cincinnati  
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action Jacksonville  
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action New Orleans  
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action Portland  
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action Prince George's County  
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action San Luis Obispo  
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action Southeastern Pennsylvania  
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action Southern California  
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action Pittsburgh  
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action Seattle  
Carolina Jews for Justice  
Detroit Jews for Justice  
IKAR  
Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action  
Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice NW  
Jewish Community Action  
Jewish Council on Urban Affairs  
Jews for Racial & Economic Justice  
Lab/Shul  
Never Again Seattle Chapter  
SAJ-Judaism that Stands for All  
Shalom Bayit  
Social Action Committee of Congregation Beth David  
The Kitchen SF  
The Secular Jewish Circle of Puget Sound