

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 13, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington DC, 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write to urge you to prioritize the inclusion of H.R. 1909 / S. 747, the Citizenship for Essential Workers Act, which would create a pathway to citizenship for millions of immigrant essential workers, as part of the American Families Plan and your legislative package on jobs and infrastructure.

For the past year, essential workers have further proven themselves to be a truly important part of our nation's critical infrastructure and crucial part of the backbone of our society. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security even designated essential workers as part of our nation's critical infrastructure.¹ These workers have kept America fed, healthy, and safe throughout this pandemic, and they will be just as essential to our nation's economic recovery. Over 5 million of these workers are undocumented immigrants² – they are among the farmworkers, meatpackers, nurses, janitors, construction workers, grocery store clerks, truck drivers, restaurant cooks, domestic workers, home health care aides, emergency first responders, and so many others who have stepped up for our nation during this unprecedented crisis.

Essential workers also paid a terrible toll this past year³. They are unable to work from home, often live in crowded conditions with their families, work in industries with unsafe conditions, and earn poverty level wages. Thus, the pandemic only worsened their living situations, compounding on the grim socio-economic and racial disparities in our country. A path to citizenship for essential workers is a critical part of building our economy back better.

The Citizenship for Essential Workers Act directly relates to the priority of rebuilding America's economic infrastructure and aligns entirely with the administration's priority on defeating COVID-19. If Republicans continue to refuse to advance immigration legislation supported by the overwhelming majority of the American people, the next reconciliation package on jobs and infrastructure should include citizenship for essential workers. Speaker Pelosi has already indicated her support for including immigration legislation in legislative packages advanced through budget reconciliation given the clear "case about the budget implications of immigration"⁴, while the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and 100 members of the Democratic Caucus have also urged the inclusion of a pathway to citizenship for essential workers in COVID-

¹ <https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce>

² [Immigrant Essential Workers: Crucial to COVID-19 Recovery - FWD.us](https://www.fwd.us/immigrant-essential-workers-crucial-to-covid-19-recovery)

³ [The plight of essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic \(nih.gov\)](https://www.nih.gov/news-events/press-releases/statement-nih-director-essential-workers)

⁴ <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/huddle/2021/04/01/scoop-inside-dems-challenge-to-take-down-lauren-boebert-492324>

19 relief legislation.⁵ The upcoming legislative package on jobs and infrastructure is the best opportunity to recognize and reward the sacrifices and labor of essential workers.

These immigrant essential workers have more than earned a pathway to citizenship. In fact, a bipartisan majority of Americans agree that a path to citizenship for essential workers is the right thing to do.⁶ Essential workers are American heroes — and they have earned the right to become American citizens. They have stepped up for America. It's time for us to step up for them.

Sincerely,



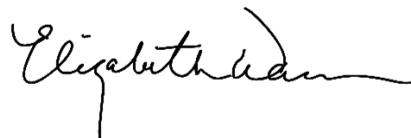
Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Alex Padilla
U.S. Senator



Ted Lieu
Member of Congress



Elizabeth Warren
U.S. Senator

Additional co-signers:

Senator Richard Blumenthal
Representative Raul Ruiz
Representative Pramila Jayapal
Representative Ruben Gallego
Representative Juan Vargas
Representative Barbara Lee
Representative James P. McGovern
Representative Adriano Espaillat
Representative Tony Cárdenas

Senator Cory A. Booker
Representative Grace Napolitano
Representative Raúl Grijalva
Representative Nikema Williams
Representative Diana DeGette
Representative Ro Khanna
Representative Sara Jacobs
Representative Teresa Leger Fernández
Representative Darren Soto

⁵ <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/01/30/immigration-citizenship-pathway-coronavirus-relief-463994>

⁶ [Bipartisan Poll Shows Failure to Deliver Citizenship Will Result in Significant Enthusiasm Gap with Voters \(dataforprogress.org\)](https://www.dataforprogress.org/)