

**JCPA Statement to the U.S. House Committee
Hearing on “Protecting Dreamers and TPS Recipients”
Wednesday, March 6, 2019**

As the American Jewish community’s primary convener, consensus-builder, and policy advocate for over 75 years, the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) urges House Judiciary Committee members to highlight the need for a permanent legislative solution that includes a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders, and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) recipients. We urge Congress to immediately pass legislation, such as the Dream and Promise Act of 2019, without increasing border security or harming other immigrant groups.

Dreamers deserve a permanent solution with a pathway to citizenship that will enable them to live, work, and study in the U.S. without constant fear of detention and deportation. Under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), eligible Dreamers voluntarily shared their personal information with the federal government and passed extensive background checks. Ending these protections without a permanent solution in place was cruel and each day that Congress fails to act is another day that Dreamers and their families must live in fear and uncertainty. Not only is this country the only land many of them know, but they are making our nation better by enriching the fabric of our society and helping secure our economic future. Congress has a moral imperative to ensure that these young people can continue to live, work, and study in the U.S., the only country—the only home—many of them know.

TPS holders and DED recipients are also in urgent need of protection and a pathway to citizenship. The Administration’s termination of TPS determinations for Haiti, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Liberia, Nepal, Honduras, and others—despite dangerous or unsafe conditions—have left hundreds of thousands of people without recourse. They live in fear of being torn from their families and deported to countries where they may face grave danger, and even death. Unable to return to their country of origin, many TPS and DED holders have lived and worked legally in the U.S. for decades, building families and communities. These are our communities, our neighbors, colleagues, classmates, and family members. They deserve a pathway to citizenship.

JCPA urges members to uphold the American values of refugee protection, family reunification, and economic opportunity by providing a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, TPS holders, and DED recipients without increasing border security or harming other immigrant groups.

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) is an umbrella body that represents 125 local Jewish community relations councils and 17 national Jewish agencies, including the four main denominations of American Judaism (Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist). Together, we and our network advocate for a just and pluralistic society, global human rights, and Israel's quest for peace and security.