



CENTRAL AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER
CENTRO DE RECURSOS CENTROAMERICANOS

PRESS RELEASE

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Media Contact:

Juan Rivera
Director of Marketing & Communications
CARECEN SF

CARECEN SF Joins Alianza Americas' National Campaign #KeepingUSSafe and Continues to Call on Congress to Protect ALL Americans, without exclusion of immigrants during the current COVID-19 global health pandemic

San Francisco, May 13, 2020 – The Central American Resource Center - CARECEN SF joins Alianza Americas #KeepingUSSafe national campaign. The goal of this campaign is to raise public awareness about the exclusion of immigrants from federal relief efforts, despite the active role of essential immigrant workers in keeping the U.S. economy going, as well as their work in various sectors deemed critical to the nation's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CARECEN SF will be localizing this campaign to California with the use of #KeepingCAsafe given that California benefits from the largest TPS, DACA, and immigrant population in the country.

"Our goal is to bring attention to the personal stories of immigrant workers, and show their critical contributions to the nation in this moment, and always. The goal of #KeepingUSSafe #KeepingCAsafe is to call on the federal government, states and cities to protect everyone, without exclusion not only for public health reasons, but also for a successful economic recovery." said Juan Rivera, Director of Marketing and Communications for CARECEN SF.

Nationally - CARECEN SF has sent letters to all members of the U.S. Congress demanding the protection of 300,000 individuals under the Temporary Protection Status (TPS) program, 700,000 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) beneficiaries and their families. There are an estimated 500,000 U.S. born children with parents in both of these programs. Additionally, CARECEN SF is calling for the protection of 11 Million+ undocumented immigrants, of which an estimated 6 Million are considered essential workers.

In California, CARECEN SF is actively working with state elected officials, and the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to ensure local DMV offices honor automatic extension of work authorizations documents for TPS beneficiaries that need to renew California Driver Licenses and State IDs. Additionally, to ensure

all employers in California honor the automatic extension of work authorization documents, which show expired dates. The extension of work authorization documents is the result of various lawsuits by community advocates and plaintiffs seeking protection from the cancelation of these programs by the Trump Administration.

Locally, in addition to responding to the critical needs of the community who seek our programs, CARECEN SF partnered with San Francisco Supervisor Hillary Ronen to introduce a City Resolution calling on the U.S. Congress to protect ALL Americans without exclusion of immigrants, in response to the current global health pandemic. This Resolution passed unanimously on April 28th of this year.

Vanessa Velasco, CARECEN SF's Community Outreach Specialist and a TPS beneficiary said the following, *"Throughout the entire country, immigrants are working very hard in essential jobs and putting their lives at risk to provide food and critical services to the rest of the U.S. population. It's time to protect them by providing a path to legal status and aid during the COVID-19 crisis."*

CARECENSF empowers and responds to the needs, rights and aspirations of Latino, immigrant, and under-resourced families in the San Francisco Bay Area — building leadership to pursue self-determination and justice. Rooted in its cultural strengths and inspired by the Central American justice struggles, CARECEN SF envisions our diverse immigrant community as thriving; where families prosper, build effective community institutions, and participate confidently in civic life.

Learn more about our history and work at www.carecensf.org.

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