

## **PRESS STATEMENT**

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### **Building a Better Nation, a More Equitable and Just Nation Requires Building a Nation for Everyone**

*We call on Senate Democrats to expand protections and secure a path to permanency for the very people whose labor and contributions will ensure that as a nation we actually “build back better.”*

**Washington DC, November 19, 2021** – Today’s passage in the U.S. House of Representatives of the Build Back Better Act represents an important step towards a once in a generation investment in our nation’s future. Such critical investments include child care & early childhood education, climate change, affordable health care, and the nation’s “middle class”, per today’s White House official announcement.

For 11+ Million immigrants actively contributing to the economic, social, cultural and civic fabric of the nation, and particularly in the context of a devastating global pandemic, the Build Back Better Act also represents an expression of our nation’s values.

It makes a statement about our commitment to turning the tide on climate change, it makes a statement that investing in children is securing generations to come, that healthcare is a right, and it could also make a statement that millions of DREAMERS, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) beneficiaries, farmworkers, “essential workers”, individuals and families matter, and a recognition of the critical role immigrants have now and will have in the U.S. economy and in building a stronger, more equitable, more just and inclusive society as we move forward.

The proposal passed in the House today could result in urgently needed temporary work permits for a good segment of the immigrant community, and we understand that even this watered-down proposal still faces many barriers, now that it has moved to the Senate. So we call on Senate Democrats to not only protect, but enact amendments to the current language that would expand protections and secure a path to permanency for the very people whose labor and contributions will ensure that as a nation we actually “build back better.”

A failure to recognize 11+ Million of the hardest working members of our communities, by not securing permanent protections will only hinder this monumental investment, its transformative potential and future sustainability. Building a better nation, a more equitable and just nation requires building a nation for everyone.

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CARECEN SF 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](http://www.carecensf.org).