

EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL PROCLAMATION

In Support of Protections from Deportation and a Path to Permanent Residency for Beneficiaries of DACA, TPS and DED

WHEREAS, more than 1.1 million hardworking men and women stand to lose their work authorization and legal status in this country unless Congress takes steps to defend Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Temporary Protected Status (TPS), and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED), whose protections have been canceled by the Trump Administration, although federal judges have issued temporary injunctions blocking the terminations; and

WHEREAS, our entire workforce benefits from these programs that allow people to live and work without fear in our country, and we will all be harmed if these workers lose their status; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 800,000 DACA recipients in this country who have grown up and gone to school here. There are more than 320,000 TPS holders who have been working, paying taxes, contributing to our economy and belong to our unions. Many have lived here for decades, purchased homes and raised families that include U.S.-born children; and

WHEREAS, without legislative action for permanent solutions, more than 300,000 TPS and DED holders could be uprooted this year, including those from South Sudan in May, Nepal in June, Haiti in July and El Salvador in September; and

WHEREAS, TPS is a successful program that serves important humanitarian purposes while helping to raise wages, support a stable workforce and reduce exploitation. Studies have shown that TPS holders have a workforce participation rate of 88.5 percent, with particular concentrations in construction and service industries; and

WHEREAS, terminating these protections would separate families, force workers into the shadows, and cause far-reaching harm in worksites and industries across the country. Termination of TPS would lead to an estimated \$45 billion reduction in gross domestic product, an immediate \$69 billion reduction in tax contributions and an estimated \$1 billion in employer costs; and

WHEREAS, ending TPS protections will only serve to expand the pool of vulnerable workers in our labor market and force a growing number of immigrants and union members to work under a cloud of fear. Stripping status and work permits from long-term, taxpaying members of our society is not in the interests of working people; and

WHEREAS, on June 4, the House of Representatives passed the Dream and Promise Act of 2019 H.R. 6 which would provide protections from deportation and offer a well-earned path to permanent residency to hardworking people who have played by the rules for decades.

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of El Cerrito, does hereby proclaim that it stands in solidarity with beneficiaries of DACA, TPS and DED by endorsing House Resolution No. 6 (H.R. 6), the Dream and Promise Act H.R. 6; and

FURTHER the City urges California Senators Diane Feinstein and Kamala Harris to do all that they can in the U.S. Senate to pass similar protections and a path to permanent residency for DACA, TPS and DED; and

AND FURTHER, the City encourages all residents to contact their senators to urge them to take leadership in fighting for protections from deportation and a path to permanent residency for DACA, TPS and DED.

Dated: November 19, 2019

Rochelle Pardue-Okimoto, Mayor