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Miriam Feldblum
Executive Director

September 8, 2021

House Judiciary Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Vote Recommendation Opposing any Harmful Amendments Introduced in the House Judiciary Committee Markup

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the [Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration](https://presidentsalliance.org), I am writing to urge you to **vote no** on any amendment introduced during the House Judiciary Committee markup of the FY 2022 concurrent budget reconciliation resolution that would undermine: (a) the roadmap to citizenship for Dreamers, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and others; (b) undocumented student access to in-state tuition, admissions, enrollment, or financial aid; or (c) the country's ability to attract and retain international students. Congress must support undocumented and international students and other immigrants who contribute so much to our campuses, communities, and economy.

The nonpartisan, nonprofit Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration brings college and university presidents and chancellors together on the immigration issues that impact higher education, our students, campuses, communities and nation. We work to advance just, forward-looking immigration policies and practices at the federal, state, and campus levels that are consistent with our heritage as a nation of immigrants and the academic values of equity and openness. The Alliance is composed of over 500 presidents and chancellors of public and private colleges and universities, enrolling over five million students in 43 states, D.C., and Puerto Rico.

Higher Ed Access. More than 427,000 undocumented students are enrolled in institutions of higher education in the United States, including 181,000 DACA-eligible individuals. States across the country have recognized the value of ensuring that all students who attend and graduate from their schools can complete their education. It is essential that states have the discretion to enact policies to facilitate the participation of undocumented students in higher education. Thus, we urge you to vote against any amendments that would attack the ability of undocumented students to apply or enroll in higher education institutions; or receive in-state tuition, or state or federal financial aid.

International Students. There are over 1 million international students in the United States year to year, adding \$38.7 billion to the national economy and

supporting 415,996 jobs in the 2019-2020 academic year. These international students bring a diversity of international and cultural perspectives to our campuses and promote our nation's competitiveness on the world stage. Consequently, we urge you to vote against any amendment that would infringe on our nation's ability to attract or retain international students, especially amendments that add additional procedural or administrative burdens for international students.

Roadmap to Citizenship. Amendments that undermine the roadmap to citizenship would also threaten America's economic recovery. Citizenship for the populations covered under this bill would boost GDP by a cumulative total of \$1.5 trillion over 10 years, create over 400,000 new jobs, and increase wages for all American workers by \$600.¹ Further, undocumented immigrant populations contribute billions in federal, state, local, and payroll taxes annually.² More than an economic imperative, there is also bipartisan public support. The American people—Democrats and Republicans—support a path to citizenship for immigrants. Polls consistently show over 70 percent of voters support the legalization provision for undocumented immigrants.³

A permanent, legislative roadmap to citizenship will ensure that these students have the opportunity to access higher education and contribute to their fullest potential to the only nation many of them have ever called home. The FY 2022 budget resolution has the opportunity to grant lawful permanent status (LPR) for millions, which would provide access to higher education benefits through existing law—including in-state tuition, admissions and enrollment, and federal and state financial aid. Congress has a unique opportunity to provide essential and overdue protection for thousands of well-deserving immigrants, any harmful amendments would derail this opportunity.

For more information regarding the number of undocumented students enrolled in higher education⁴ or the economic impact of international students,⁵ please see the [Immigration Higher Ed Portal](#). For questions regarding this vote recommendation, please contact Jose Magaña-Salgado at jose@presidentsalliance.org.

Sincerely,



Miriam Feldblum

Executive Director

Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration

¹ Philip E. Wolgin, "A Pathway to Citizenship and Economic Growth Through Budget Reconciliation," *Center for American Progress*, July 1, 2021,

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2021/07/01/501212/pathway-citizenship-economic-growth-budget-reconciliation/>.

² "Including immigration in the budget reconciliation process *could expand the economy* by billions of dollars," FWD.us, July 26, 2021, <https://www.fwd.us/news/immigration-reconciliation/>.

³ "Immigration Polling Roundup: Path to Citizenship Proposals Enjoy Broad Bipartisan Support," *America's Voice*, August 9, 2021, https://americasvoice.org/press_releases/immigration-polling-roundup-path-to-citizenship-proposals-enjoy-broad-bipartisan-support.

⁴ *How Many Undocumented Students are in U.S. Colleges and Universities, and Who Are They?*, Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration and New American Economy (March 2021), available at <https://www.higheredimmigrationportal.org/research/undocumented-students-in-higher-education-updated-march-2021/>.

⁵ *National Data*, Higher Ed Immigration Portal, <https://www.higheredimmigrationportal.org/national/national-data/> (last visited September 8, 2021).