



**November 19, 2021**

### **On to the Senate: CUSP Will Not Stop Fighting for Green Cards**

Communities United for Status and Protection (CUSP) is a national coalition of grassroots immigrant community organizations working together to win permanent status for our members. Together, our organizations represent thousands of African, Afro-Caribbean, Afro-Latinx, Arab/Middle Eastern, South Asian, and Asian and Pacific Islander immigrants across the country. While today's passage of the Build Back Better Act in the House includes parole, this is not and has never been enough for our communities. As the Act heads to the Senate, CUSP is committed to remaining focused on pushing for nothing less than green cards through registry.

Our communities have been counting on Democratic leadership to keep its promise of a pathway to citizenship this year. The undocumented immigrants that we represent are essential workers who have kept the country afloat and safe as the pandemic has raged on for nearly two years. They are long-term residents of the U.S., living in limbo with mere temporary statuses like Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Deferred Enforced Departure (DED), and Temporary Protected Status (TPS). Our members have made major contributions and sacrifices for this country and deserve nothing less than permanent residency, not more temporary fixes such as parole.

In this final stretch, CUSP is determined to keep the pressure up in the Senate to reinsert registry into the Build Back Better Act. The procedural steps necessary to secure a pathway to citizenship are outlined in this [vetted strategy](#). The strategy is informed by Senate rules, but it also relies upon all Democrats in Congress working in unison.

We cannot and will not stop pressuring and holding Democratic leadership accountable to their pledge to deliver citizenship through reconciliation. Registry is the only viable solution. We are not turning back now.

###

“So much of my life rests on the need for permanent status: my health, the kinds of jobs I can take, and my ability to provide for my family. A green card would finally give me a chance to breathe. It would give me the stability I need to be able to take care of my family.” - Aminata Sow, African Communities Together Member, former TPS Holder from Guinea

“I came to the U.S in 2005 and am a mother to my daughter who is a college student and I pay for her education. Having lived here for 16 years and worked at a restaurant, folks in my community have known me for years. Through the service and trust I gave for years in this community, I have built strong connections and I have built my home here. TPS holders like me have played a critical role to build this country for decades, and yet we do not get to be a citizen of this place. We are seen as insignificant to



policymakers. This is my home and I, along with tens of thousands of TPS holders, strongly believe that we deserve to be called citizens of this country AND we urge the Senate to pass green cards.” - Maya Lama, TPS holder from Nepal, member of Adhikaar and resident of Virginia

“House Democrats failed to keep their promise to our communities. They promised us permanent protections and instead, they have passed temporary, elusive, and arbitrary status in the form of parole. We will not forget this betrayal. We must now turn to the Senate--can they succeed where the House failed? We need green cards for our communities, and we need the Senate Democrats to show real courage and ignore the parliamentarian’s advice. The Senate must do its job and do right by our undocumented communities, and it must happen now.” - Patrice Lawrence, Executive Director of the [UndocuBlack Network](#)

“As the Build Back Better Act moves to the Senate, we remain steadfast in our belief that our communities deserve nothing less than green cards through registry. The National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC) represents members of the Arab American and broader Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) community who have contributed to the growth are vital parts of our broader social fabric, though the Build Back Better does not afford them the commensurate protection. Our nation owes our communities permanent residency through a clear, achievable, and articulable pathway to citizenship. We will continue to pursue a legislative solution that offers our communities the relief and protection they need.” - Rima Meroueh, Director of the National Network for Arab American Communities

“It’s been proven time and time again, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, that immigrants are the backbone of this country. For, Haitian Bridge Alliance’s member, Rose Tilus, a Nurse Practitioner born in Haiti who has tirelessly worked on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic, even after contracting COVID-19 herself. Rose is one of the 346,000 health care workers that are undocumented in the United States and one of the 130,000 estimated Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders who are providing essential services to our nation. In May 2021, Rose testified before the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Security, and made it clear that all undocumented people, just as herself, live in constant fear of deportation and/or discontinuation of their livelihood. Parole is not enough for our community members. It is time to create a pathway to citizenship. Immigrants are essential.” - Guerline Jozef, Co-Founder and Executive Director of the [Haitian Bridge Alliance](#)

###

**Communities United for Status and Protection (CUSP)** is a collaborative of grassroots immigrant community organizations working together to win permanent status for our members and communities, and build a more inclusive immigrant rights movement that centers the needs and experiences of African, Afro-Caribbean, Afro-Latinx, Arab/Middle Eastern, and API immigrants.

**The UndocuBlack Network (UBN)**, founded in 2016, is a multigenerational network of currently and



formerly undocumented Black people that fosters community, facilitates access to resources and contributes to transforming the realities of our people so we are thriving and living our fullest lives. UBN has chapters in New York City, the DC/MD/VA area, and Los Angeles, CA.

**Adhikaar** (Nepali: rights) is a New York-based non-profit, organizing the Nepali-speaking community to promote human rights and social justice for all. We are a women-led workers' center and community center focused on workers' rights, immigration rights, access to affordable healthcare and language justice. We organize the Nepali-speaking community to create broader social change; build coalitions on advocacy campaigns that address our community's needs; center women and the most impacted communities in our leadership; engage members in participatory action research; and implement community education, workplace development training, and support services.

**African Communities Together (ACT)** is an organization of African immigrants fighting for civil rights, opportunity, and a better life for our families here in the U.S. and worldwide. ACT empowers African immigrants to integrate socially, get ahead economically, and engage civically. We connect African immigrants to critical services, help Africans develop as leaders, and organize our communities on the issues that matter.

**Haitian Bridge Alliance (HBA)** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community organization that advocates for fair and humane immigration policies and provides bond support and humanitarian, legal, and other social services, with a particular focus on Black immigrants, the Haitian community, women, LGBTQAI+ individuals and survivors of torture and other human rights abuses. Since 2015, HBA has provided services to asylum seekers and other migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border, in U.S. detention, and during U.S. immigration proceedings.

**National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC)** is a national consortium of independent Arab American community-based organizations. The Network's primary mission is to build the capacity of Arab American non-profit organizations that focus on the needs and issues impacting their local community while collectively addressing those issues nationally