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The American Dream and Promise Act of 2019 ([H.R. 6](#))

What is the background so far on H.R. 6?

The American Dream and Promise Act of 2019 (H.R. 6) was introduced on March 12, 2019 by Representatives Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA40), Nydia Velázquez (D-NY12), and Yvette Clarke (D-NY9). As of March 25, 2019, the bill had a total of 221 cosponsors. On March 12th, H.R. 6 was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

Who would gain permanent legal status under H.R. 6?

According to the [Migration Policy Institute](#), there are approximately 2,662,000 people who would gain legal status under H.R. 6. This includes 2,313,000 Dreamers who would gain conditional lawful permanent residency and 429,000 Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforcement Departure (DED) holders who would gain full lawful permanent residency.

How does this H.R. 6 protect Dreamers?

H.R. 6 would require the Administration to grant Dreamers conditional “permanent resident status” for up to 10 years if they:

- Have lived continuously in the U.S. for four years prior to the enactment of the bill;
- Were younger than 18 when entering the U.S.;
- Are not inadmissible based on criminal, terrorism, smuggling, student visa abuse, or certain other factors;
- Have not committed domestic violence, serious crimes that resulted in prison time of over a year, or three or more crimes with an aggregate sentence of 90 days or more;
- Attend higher education, graduate from high school, obtain a GED, or finish an apprenticeship program; and
- Pass security and background checks, pay an application fee, and register for the Selective Service, if applicable.

How do Dreamers fully adjust their status under H.R. 6?

Generally, Dreamers would be able to gain full lawful permanent residency if they:

- Complete two years, in good standing, or receive a degree from an institution of higher education or trade school;
- Complete two years of military service, and if discharged, received an honorable discharge;
- Work for three years and at least 75% of that time the person had employment authorization; or
- Meet the hardship exceptions (i.e., demonstrated disability, full-time caregiver to child, or removal would result in hardship to U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident spouse, parent, or child).

What other provisions for Dreamers are available under H.R. 6?

- Allowing Dreamers to access certain forms of federal aid for students;
- Rescinding a restriction that limited Dreamers ability to access higher education benefits for students in certain states; and
- Permitting eligible Dreamers deported from the United States to apply for relief from abroad.

How does H.R. 6 help TPS and DED holders?

H.R. 6 would require the Administration to grant TPS or DED holders with full lawful permanent residency if they:

- Have been living continuously in the U.S. for at least three years before the Act's enactment;
- Were eligible for or had TPS on September 25, 2016 or had DED status as of September 28, 2016; and
- Are admissible with certain exception, pay a reasonable application fee, and apply for adjustment within three years from the date of enactment of the Act.

What other TPS-related protections does H.R. 6 provide?

- H.R. 6 requires the Department of Homeland Security to submit a detailed report to Congress after a decision to terminate a country's TPS designation; and
- H.R. 6 clarifies that a person with TPS will be considered as having been inspected and admitted into the United States.

Why does JFI Support H.R. 6?

- As Catholics, family unity is a foundational cornerstone of our faith. H.R. 6 seeks to keep families of Dreamers and TPS and DED holders together and allows them to continue to thrive in the lives they have established in the United States.
- Dreamers and TPS and DED holders are employed, tax-paying, entrepreneurial, and socially contributing members of their communities. They have been living in the United States for many years – in some cases over 20 years – and we need to ensure that they can stay with their families and can continue to contribute to our country.
- Many Dreamers and TPS holders have started families and built lives here in the United States. By tearing these families apart, we inflict severe psychological harm on their children and damage their families.
- Dreamers and TPS holders are among the most thoroughly checked, vetted, and law-abiding people in the United States.

Dreamers, TPS and DED holders, and all other migrants are our brothers and sisters in Christ whom we are called to care for and protect from the violence, poverty, and persecution from which they are fleeing.

About the Justice for Immigrants Coalition (JFI)

In 2004, the Catholic Bishops of the United States committed to immigration reform as a priority of the U.S. Catholic Church, and to creating a culture of welcome in which all migrants are treated with respect and dignity. The JFI coalition is the Catholic Bishops' national educational and grassroots migration campaign. It is comprised of over 24 national Catholic advocacy groups and over 80,000 members in over 500 parishes.

Learn more about the JFI campaign at www.justiceforimmigrants.org