

COUNTY OF SONOMA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

575 ADMINISTRATION DRIVE, RM. 100A
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95403

(707) 565-2241
FAX (707) 565-3778



MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

LYNDA HOPKINS
CHAIR
CHRIS COURSEY
VICE CHAIR
SUSAN GORIN
DAVID RABBITT
JAMES GORE

August 27, 2021

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Support of H.R. 1603 and H.R. 6.

Dear Senator Feinstein,

On behalf of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, we respectfully request that you support the passage of two bills already passed in the House of Representatives:

- H.R. 1603 Farm Workforce Modernization Act
- H.R. 6 American Dream and Promise Act of 2021

The Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021 would provide more robust protections for our nation's nonimmigrant farmworkers workforce. This bill would provide temporary protections through a designation as a "Certified Agricultural Worker" (CAW) while also giving nonimmigrant workers the opportunity to apply for legal permanent resident status after ten years of agricultural work. Furthermore, this bill would create an E-Verify system through the Department of Homeland Security for agricultural employment authorization. Finally, this bill would also create a Housing Preservation and Revitalization Program, to provide financial rental assistance to qualified individuals. We believe that the passage of H.R. 1603 would be a boon to Sonoma County as these nonimmigrant farmworkers contribute so much to our local economy.

The American Dream and Promise Act of 2021 would allow "Dreamers," U.S.-raised immigrant youth, to receive lawful permanent residence status and American citizenship. This bill also includes provisions providing pathways to citizenship for other nonimmigrant residents with temporary protected status as well. The passage of H.R. 6 would provide security to present "Dreamers" afraid of deportation across the nation, while also contributing to the wellbeing of nonimmigrant residents living in Sonoma County. We owe our support to these individuals as they contribute so much to our local and national livelihoods.

While the House has passed both these bills, we understand there is a possibility – which we would also support – that they may be included in the Reconciliation measure being drafted by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

These nonimmigrant residents contribute to our economy and to our culture. Providing these protections, and potential citizenship, would give many people the benefits they rightly deserve.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynda Hopkins".

Lynda Hopkins, Chair

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

CC: Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

Paul Schlesinger and Perrin Badini, Alcalde & Fay

Steve Palmer, Carol McDaid, Holly Strain, and David Haines, Van Scoyoc Associates

COUNTY OF SONOMA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

575 ADMINISTRATION DRIVE, RM. 100A
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95403

(707) 565-2241
FAX (707) 565-3778



MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

LYNDA HOPKINS
CHAIR
CHRIS COURSEY
VICE CHAIR
SUSAN GORIN
DAVID RABBITT
JAMES GORE

August 27, 2021

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
B03 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support of H.R. 1603 and H.R. 6.

Dear Senator Padilla,

On behalf of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, we respectfully request that you support the passage of two bills already passed in the House of Representatives:

- H.R. 1603 Farm Workforce Modernization Act
- H.R. 6 American Dream and Promise Act of 2021

The Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021 would provide more robust protections for our nation's nonimmigrant farmworkers workforce. This bill would provide temporary protections through a designation as a "Certified Agricultural Worker" (CAW) while also giving nonimmigrant workers the opportunity to apply for legal permanent resident status after ten years of agricultural work. Furthermore, this bill would create an E-Verify system through the Department of Homeland Security for agricultural employment authorization. Finally, this bill would also create a Housing Preservation and Revitalization Program, to provide financial rental assistance to qualified individuals. We believe that the passage of H.R. 1603 would be a boon to Sonoma County as these nonimmigrant farmworkers contribute so much to our local economy.

The American Dream and Promise Act of 2021 would allow "Dreamers," U.S.-raised immigrant youth, to receive lawful permanent residence status and American citizenship. This bill also includes provisions providing pathways to citizenship for other nonimmigrant residents with temporary protected status as well. The passage of H.R. 6 would provide security to present "Dreamers" afraid of deportation across the nation, while also contributing to the wellbeing of nonimmigrant residents living in Sonoma County. We owe our support to these individuals as they contribute so much to our local and national livelihoods.

While the House has passed both these bills, we understand there is a possibility – which we would also support – that they may be included in the Reconciliation measure being drafted by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

These nonimmigrant residents contribute to our economy and to our culture. Providing these protections, and potential citizenship, would give many people the benefits they rightly deserve.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynda Hopkins".

Lynda Hopkins, Chair

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

CC: Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

Paul Schlesinger and Perrin Badini, Alcalde & Fay

Steve Palmer, Carol McDaid, Holly Strain, and David Haines, Van Scoyoc Associates