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## **Heroes Act is a Step Forward, but Communities Need Congress to Act**

*Alianza Americas urges Congress to protect those who keep us safe*

**CHICAGO** – The proposed Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act (HEROES) announced yesterday by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi aims to provide \$3 trillion in aid to state and local governments to battle the COVID-19 pandemic at a time when the federal government is moving to exclude immigrants from any relief.

“The previous relief packages left out immigrants from vital health and aid resources, even though millions of immigrants are performing essential jobs and still feeling the negative economic repercussions of the pandemic,” said Oscar Chacón, Alianza Americas Executive Director. “They also failed to address the reality that hundreds of thousands of people with Temporary Protective Status (TPS) and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) permits are performing essential tasks and keeping us all safe.”

The proposed legislation contains several additional elements that attempt to rectify past failures to protect all communities. These include:

- Stimulus payments for all taxpayers
- COVID-19 testing, treatment, and future vaccine coverage for all, regardless of immigration status
- Extension of work authorization for DACA and TPS holders as well as other immigrants on temporary visas.
- Increased protections for workers in food-related and other essential industries

“We need Congress to move from proposal to action and to do it quickly. Immigrants are working in critical sectors-- as farmworkers, supermarket clerks, health workers,

construction sector workers, janitors, and truckers. They keep our economy running, yet they are being left out, and, at any moment, court rulings could end temporary protections for TPS or DACA recipients. This is a time for Congress to take leadership and bring security to the workers who are essential to our economy, both during and after the pandemic,” said Yanira Arias, National Campaigns Manager for Alianza Americas.

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**Alianza Americas** is a network of 50 immigrant-led organizations representing more than 100,000 families across the United States. It is the only United States-based organization rooted in Latino and Caribbean immigrant communities that works transnationally to create an inclusive, equitable, and sustainable way of life. Find out more at [alianzaamericas.org](http://alianzaamericas.org)