

Statement of the American Immigration Lawyers Association

in Support of

The Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2019, H.R. 5038

The American Immigration Lawyers Association recommends that members of Congress vote in support of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2019, H.R. 5038. This bipartisan proposal will create a new temporary, renewable worker visa program and offer a path to lawful permanent residency for those who qualify. H.R. 5038 will also reform and modernize the existing H-2A temporary agricultural worker visa program and require all agriculture employers to implement the “E-Verify” program to ensure their workers are authorized.

H.R. 5038 represents a compromise between leading representatives of farm workers and employers and includes new protections for farmworkers as well as changes to address agricultural employers’ concerns. While not perfect, the bill will stabilize the farm labor force and provide greater food security to the benefit of American workers, employers and consumers. Importantly, H.R. 5038 has garnered significant bipartisan support for a workable legalization plan that could benefit a significant portion of the unauthorized worker population.

AILA applauds Representatives Zoe Lofgren (D-California) and Dan Newhouse (R-Washington) who have championed this proposal and urges all members of the House of Representatives to vote in favor of passage.