



# Just Neighbors Advocacy Toolkit

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Prepared by: Kimberly Garcia, Justice and Advocacy Fellow

Approved by: Erin McKenney, Executive Director

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## Introduction



Figure 1: 2019 VACOLAO Advocacy Day

This toolkit is designed to guide you as you advocate for immigrant rights in your community. You will find that there are many ways you can advocate. These actions can be taken on the local, state, and/or federal levels. We have provided many examples that you can use as templates for your emails, phone conversations, and even social media posts. However, keep in mind that these are in no way the *only* ways to advocate.



## Mission Statement



*Figure 2: Just Neighbors staff 2019*

The mission of Just Neighbors is to provide high-quality immigration legal services to low-income immigrants, asylees, and refugees in Washington, D.C.; Maryland; and Virginia; and, to build community among clients, staff, volunteers and the larger society through education, advocacy, and volunteerism.

## Why We Advocate

Just Neighbors advocates for immigrants because we want to see an America in which more immigrants can access a pathway to citizenship. Our experience doing direct legal services allows us to witness firsthand how challenging life can be for families who don't have a pathway. We also witness and live through the constant swaying of immigration policy based on executive power since Congress has failed to pass real immigration reform. Just Neighbors is committed to spreading positive narratives about immigrants and immigration. While things can be frustrating, we do our best to stay focused on our vision of a better DMV and America for our clients and immigrants in general. We choose to move forward through collaboration, hard work, and a positive outlook.

### *Advocacy during a global pandemic:*

We know that injustices continue to occur despite the pandemic. Although we encourage you to continue your advocacy work, please do so safely. Remain home as much as possible and avoid crowded areas for the time being, such as protests. A lot of advocacy work can be done safely from your computer. Ask to meet with your representative via zoom, use social media to catch your follower's attention, make phone calls and send emails to your legislators. We have hope that better days are ahead, and we can advocate together in person soon.



Figure 3: Kim, Dana and Liz at SCOTUS DACA rally 2019

# Legislative Process: Virginia

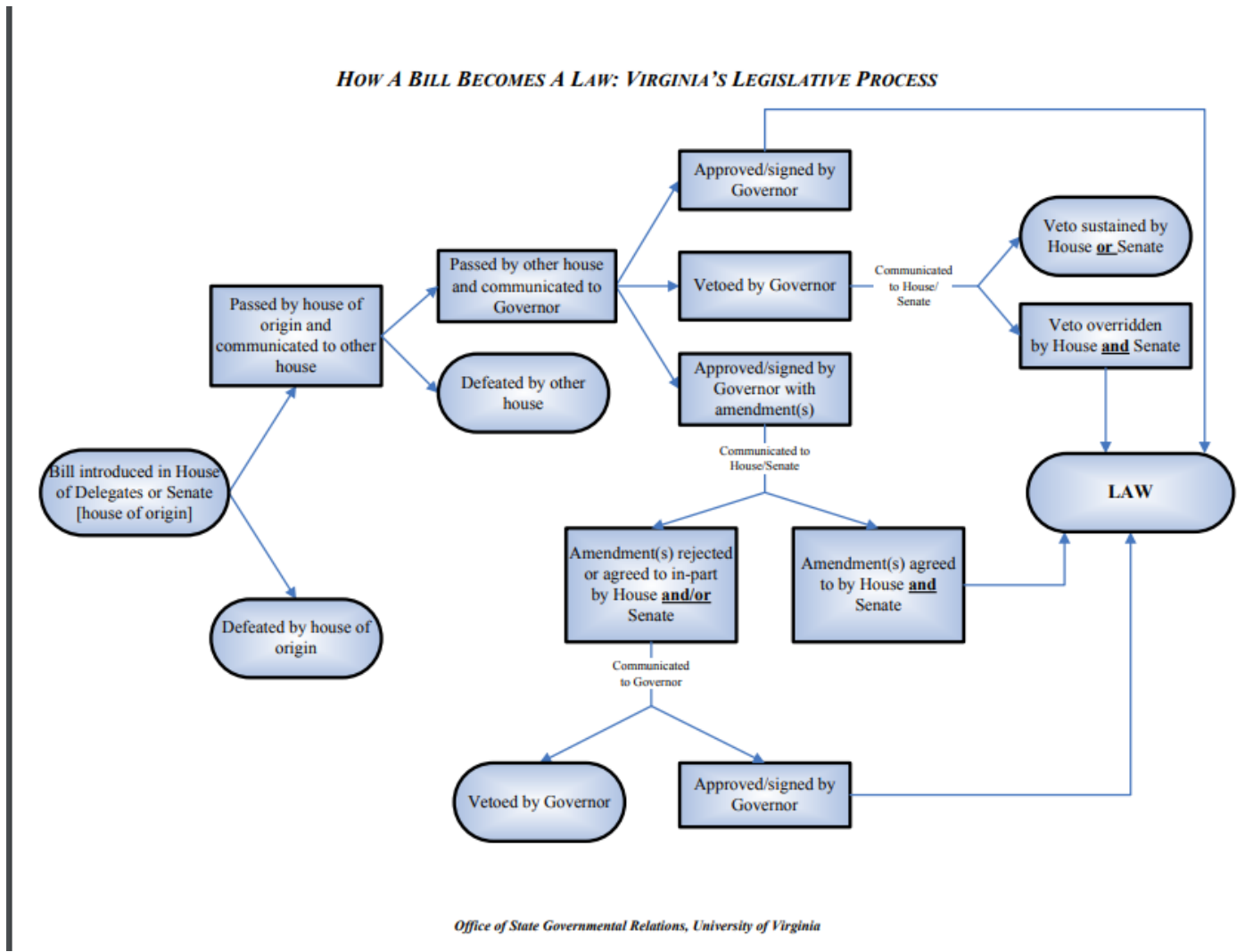


Figure 4: Virginia Legislative Process

## Legislative Process: Maryland

### The Progress of a Bill

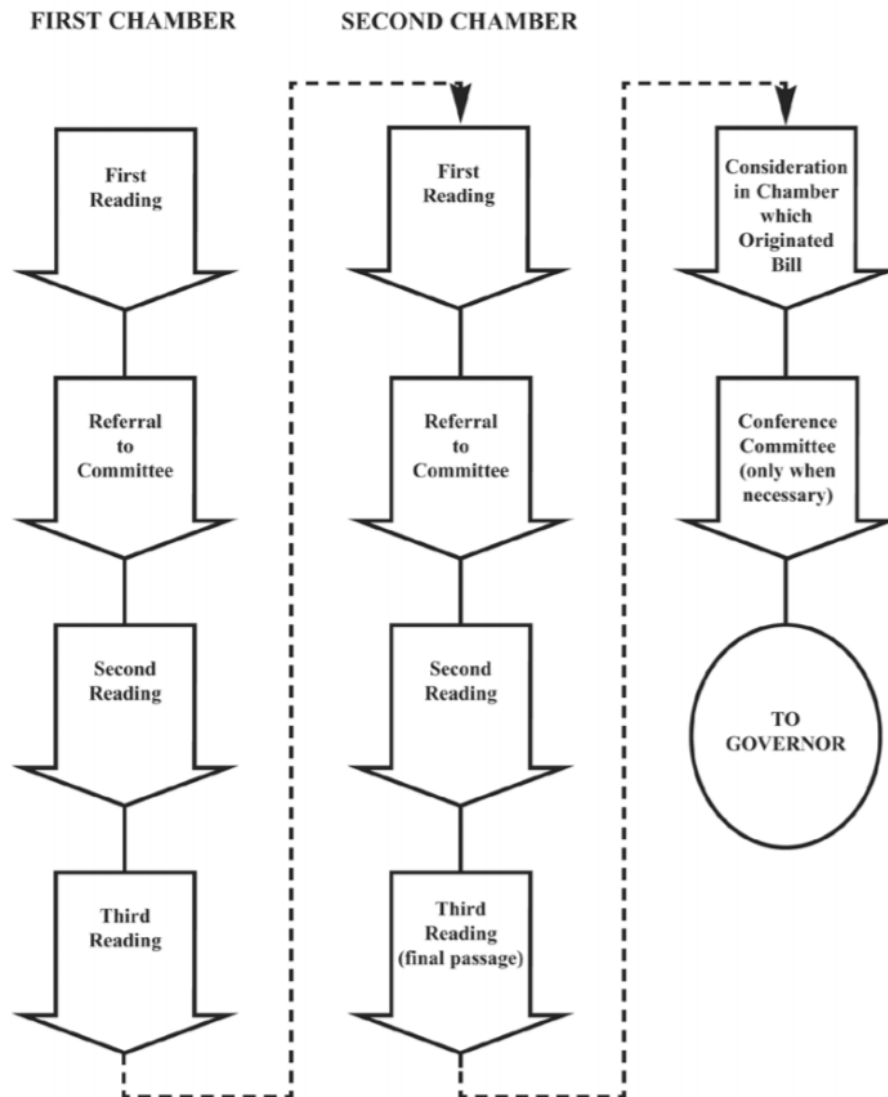


Figure 5: Maryland Legislative Process

## Legislative Process: Washington D.C.

### District of Columbia Legislative Process

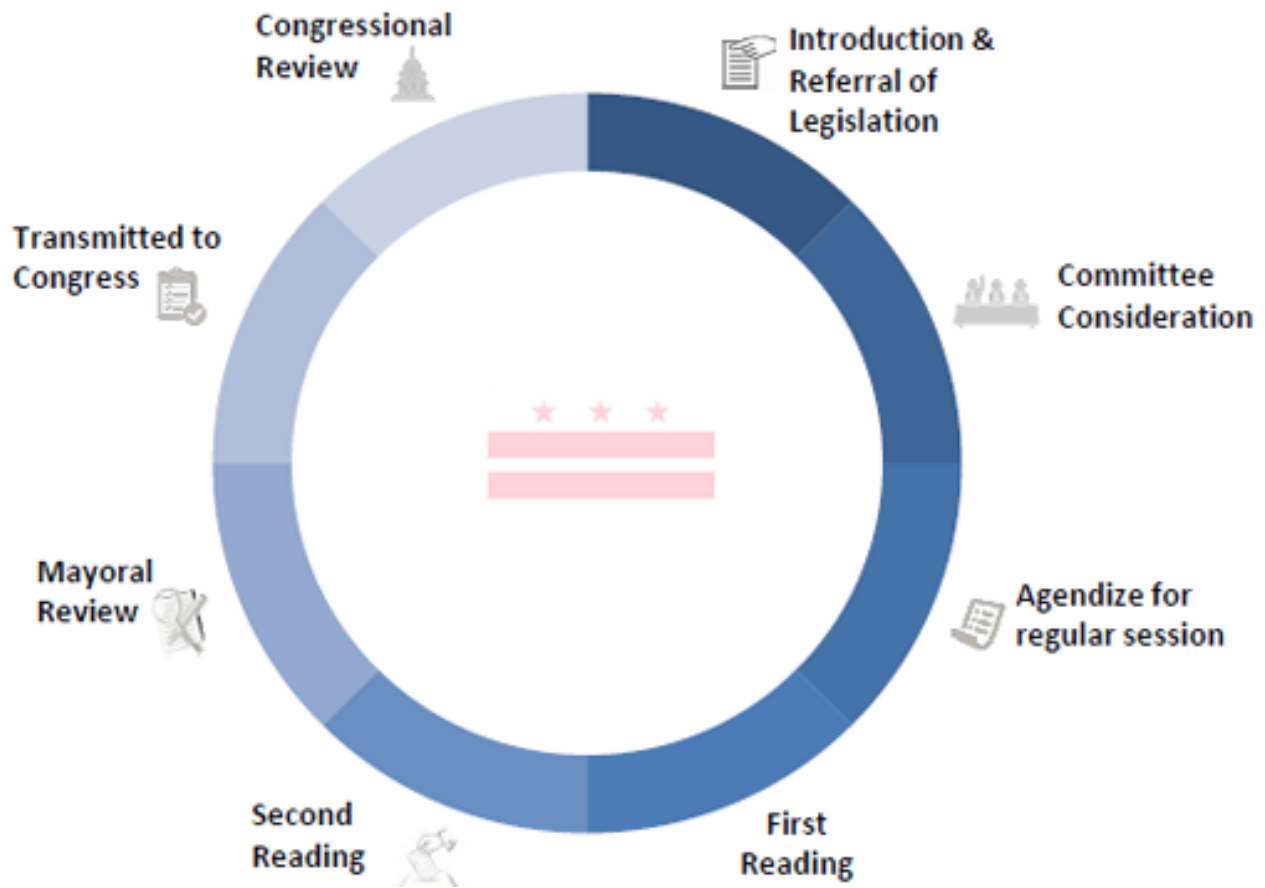


Figure 6: Washington D.C Legislative Process

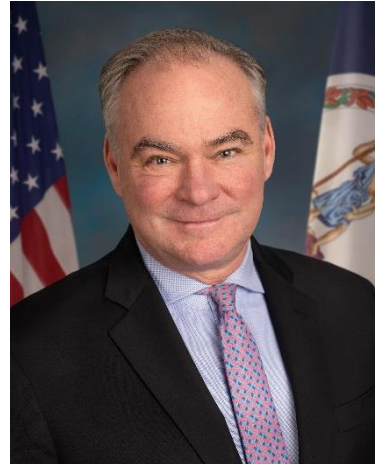


## ‘Who is my legislator?’

You have legislators at the local, state, and federal levels. Below, you will find the Virginia and Maryland U.S senators. If you would like to find out who the rest of your representatives are, you can do so here: [www.usa.gov/elected-officials](http://www.usa.gov/elected-officials)



Mark Warner, Virginia U.S Senator



Tim Kaine, Virginia U.S Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin  
Maryland U.S Senator



Chris Van Hollen  
Maryland U.S Senator

## II. Quick and Immediate Actions: Call your Legislator

The easiest way to contact your elected official is to look up the phone number online for their office. Often, you will find yourself speaking with a staff member. Regardless, your call will most likely be logged “for” or “against” an issue. Well-timed calls can be particularly important, especially when the office is receiving calls regarding the same issue from multiple constituents.

### **When calling, you should:**

- Ask for the elected official if you know them personally.
- If you don't know the elected official, ask to speak with the staff who handles immigration issues.
- If your call goes to voicemail, leave a detailed message stating your name, contact information including your zip code, and the issue you are calling to support or oppose.

### **Tips:**

- During your call, make two or three key points on a single issue.
- Write out your talking points before you make your call; this will help you stay focused on the message you want to deliver.
- Mention how the issue impacts you and your community; this will demonstrate the impact on the legislator's constituents.
- State the action you would like your elected official to take on the issue, for example: vote for, vote against, provide funding, etc.
- Make sure the call is brief, try to keep the call under three minutes.
- Leave your contact information with the staffer -- phone number and/or email.
- Lastly, write down the name of the staff member you spoke with. The next time you call about similar issues, ask for that staff member; this will allow you to begin to build a relationship with them.

## II. Quick and Immediate Actions: Sample Conversation

**Staff member:** *Thank you for calling Representative [name]'s office. How may I help you?*

**You:** *Good morning/afternoon. My name is XXXXX from [city, state], and I am calling on behalf of [either Just Neighbors or your community]*

**Staff member:** *Wonderful, how can I help you?*

**You:** *As a constituent of Representative [name]'s district, I am calling to [support, oppose, ask for funding, etc.] this is where you state your purpose and why it is important for immigrants and non-immigrants in your community alike*

**Staff member:** *Thank you for sharing your concerns with us, I will make sure to relay your comments/concerns on to the representative. Is there anything else I can do for you today?*

**You:** *No, that is all. Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns. I appreciate your sharing my thoughts on [issue] with \_\_\_\_\_ (name of representative) If you or the representative have any questions for me in the future, please feel free to contact me at [phone number/email]. Have a great day.*

## II. Quick and Immediate Actions: Email your Legislator

Another great way to communicate to your legislator your concerns or requests is through written communication. Sending a well thought out and concise email that expresses your opinions can be very effective. Many people may not realize this, but, as a constituent, your legislator will want to hear from you. After all, your community voted for them, and they work for you.

### *Tips:*

- You can often find your legislators email address on their website. More often than not, you will receive a response from a staff member and not your legislator directly.
- Make sure that your email is concise.
- Don't forget to mention what area code you live in. Representatives will pay more attention to their constituents. Also, be sure to include your name and address at the top of the email.
- Thank them for taking the time to read your email.
- Be clear about your position.
- Humanize your message; make a connection to your community at large.
- If possible, use statistics to support your position.

## II. Quick and Immediate Actions: Sample Email

The Honorable XXXX  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative [xxxx],

On behalf of my colleagues and supporters of our work at Just Neighbors, I am writing to encourage you to cosponsor H. R. 5971, the Case Backlog and Transparency Act of 2020, introduced on a bipartisan basis by Representatives Tony Cardenas (D-CA) and Steve Stivers (R-OH). The legislation is designed to....

A just-released report from the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), of which all our Just Neighbors attorneys are members, found that there has been a more than 100 percent increase in case processing times since FY 2014... These delays are having a devastating impact not only on the vulnerable individuals and their families who are directly involved, but also on U. S. businesses who are in critical need of additional workers. We at Just Neighbors have experienced these overall trends first-hand and have seen the horrible impact they are having on the hard-working legal immigrants we are working hard every day to help. Certainly, in these challenging times, we should all want to limit such concerns.

Just Neighbors is a non-profit that was founded in 1996 by attorneys and pastors of the United Methodist Church. Throughout the years, we have partnered with many other non-profit organizations, local faith-based groups, community volunteers and pro bono/low bono attorneys. Our mission is to... Our attorneys practice humanitarian-based immigration law, which allows us to help the most vulnerable immigrants in our community. We know that our work is making a difference, not only for our clients, but also for the communities in which they are vital participants, making the lives of their neighbors and colleagues better.

It is unfortunate that legislation like H. R. 5971 is necessary, and there are other steps that are urgently needed to effectively address the challenges that face those that we serve. But H. R. 5971 is an important – and I emphasize bipartisan – first step. If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to me by email at... or by phone at...

Thank you again for all your work and for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Jane Doe



## II. Quick and Immediate Actions: Social Media

Social media is one of the most effective ways to get your message out there while engaging and teaching your followers/friends about immigration issues. When creating social media posts to advocate, it is essential that your posts contain factual information to avoid passing along misinformation. Make sure to cite legitimate sources that your followers can refer back to. The most common platforms for advocacy are Facebook and Twitter, but you can use many others as well. The biggest myth about social media is that it is only used by young people, when, in fact, people of all ages can be found on social media platforms to connect with friends and like-minded people.

### Facebook

Facebook is a social networking site which allows users to connect with people from all over the world. You connect with people by friending each other or liking a page. You can manage your account to ensure privacy so that only those you accept as friends can view your profile. Once you have friended family members, friends, and other people in your network, you can communicate with them through private messages and public wall posts.

#### *Ways to engage:*

- You can engage your friends on Facebook by sharing links to articles, petitions, surveys, and more.
- You can also post a moving or informative photo/video that illustrates the issue you are advocating for.
- Make sure to tag Just Neighbors and other people in your network to increase visibility of your post. Just Neighbors can uplift your ask for a petition, a survey etc.
- Lastly, try to keep your message brief and engaging, ask what others think of the matter.



Find us on Facebook: @justneighborsdmv

[www. Facebook.com/justneighborsdmv/](http://www.Facebook.com/justneighborsdmv/)

## II. Quick and Immediate Actions: Social Media

### Twitter

Twitter is another social media platform in which users communicate using short (under 280 characters) “tweets.” You will find tweets about many different issues going on around the world from music and sports to news. You can use this tool to engage with other immigrant advocates and hear about breaking news or advocacy initiatives. Since you have a limited amount of characters you can use, you must be concise in getting out exactly what you want to communicate along with your purpose. These tweets are delivered in real time, making Twitter ideal for advocacy campaigns and events.

#### *Ways to engage:*

- You can engage through twitter by tweeting at elected officials and other immigrant advocates to bring your message to their attention; it can also put pressure on officials to acknowledge and respond to your tweet publicly.
- You can tweet photos or short clips that articulate your stance on the immigration issue you would like to bring attention to.
- Engage by conversing with elected officials by including their Twitter @ in your tweets.
- Finally, add hashtags (#) to your tweets which will allow all tweets with the same hashtag to be grouped together as well as increase awareness of a movement (#IstandWithImmigrants #DACA #Dreamers).



Find us on Twitter: @JustNeighborsVA

[www.twitter.com/JustNeighborsVA](https://www.twitter.com/JustNeighborsVA)

## II. Quick and Immediate Actions: Sample Posts

**Just Neighbors**Published by Buffer [?] · May 6 ·

Action alert: As we await a decision from the Supreme Court regarding DACA, here are some actions you can take before and after the decision.

1. Pledge to support DACA recipients here: <https://homeishere.us/pledge/>
2. Register for the Home Is Here Virtual rally and other webinars here: <https://unitedwedream.org/live-webinars-the-supreme-courts.../>
3. Encourage DACA recipients to renew: <https://homeishere.us/daca-renewal-resource-directory/> ... See More



**Pledge to stand with DACA recipients and all immigrants SCOTUS decision day.**  
**#HomeIsHere**

**256**  
People Reached

**21**  
Engagements

**Boost Post**

 You and 9 others

1 Comment

 Like

 Comment

 Share



Figure 7: Facebook Post Example

## II. Quick and Immediate Actions: Sample Posts

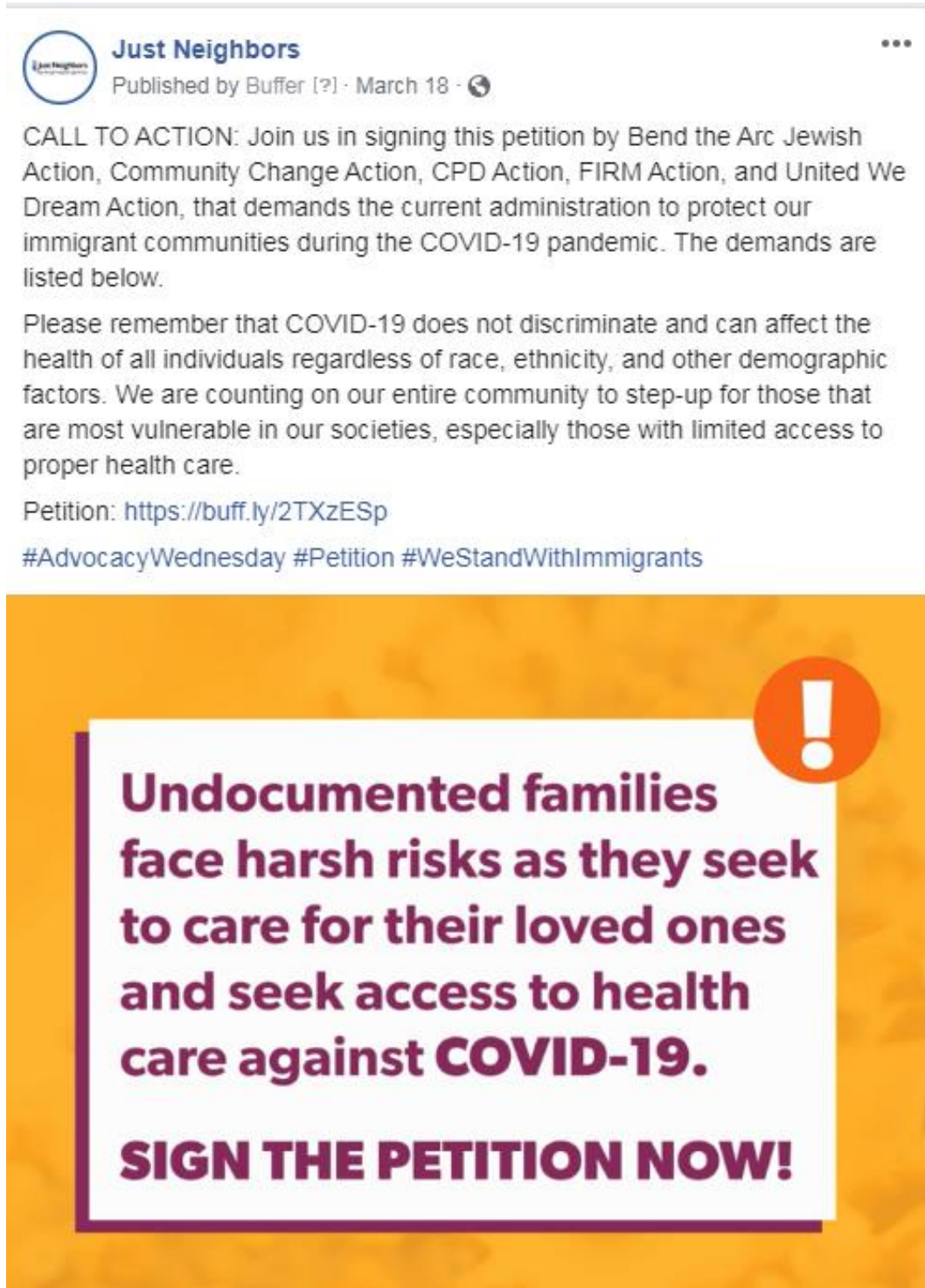


Figure 8: Facebook Post Example

## II. Quick and Immediate Actions: Sample Posts

 **Just Neighbors** Published by Buffer [?] · February 26 · 

Join immigrant rights groups and community members from all over Virginia tomorrow, Thursday February 27th, in Richmond as they march, rally, and speak to legislators about the need in our community for drivers' licenses for all!

Information below:

- 8:00 am: march from Sacred Heart Catholic Church (1400 Perry St. Richmond, VA 23224) to the State Capitol
- 9:00 am: Rally at the State Capitol, 1000 Bank St. Richmond, VA 23218
- 10:30 am: Meetings with legislators

[#AdvocacyWednesday](#) [#DriveVAForward](#) [#VASafeRoads](#)



Figure 9: Facebook Post Example



## II. Quick and Immediate Actions: Sample Posts



Figure 10: Twitter Post Example

## II. Quick and Immediate Actions: Sample Posts



Figure 11: Twitter Post Example

## II. Quick and Immediate Actions: Sample Posts



Figure 12: Twitter Post Example

### III. Individually Organized Actions:

## Meeting with your Elected Officials

If you have the capacity to do so, organizing a meeting with your elected official is very effective. It is important to prepare for these meetings beforehand because often the legislator will only be able to give you a few minutes of their time. Being prepared can ensure that you are getting your message across effectively.

Consider setting these meetings up during the legislative recess for two main reasons; a) legislators have more time during recess to meet with you, so you may not have to meet with a staff member and b) you can get your legislative ask/ issue to them before the session resumes and they begin to meet to present and vote on these legislation.

We also encourage you to gather a small group of advocates who belong to the same district as your legislator. There is power in numbers, and having multiple constituents raise an issue can be more effective in making sure your legislator hears you. If you do plan to attend the meeting with other people, make sure you have a game plan beforehand. Who will be the designated speaker? Which topics do you want to focus on?

### **Tips:**

#### *How to arrange a meeting*

- Call your representative's office and ask to speak with the staff member in charge of scheduling appointments.
- State the reason you want a meeting and what community you are representing. Ask the staff member how you can schedule a meeting.
- Be flexible about the time and location.
- Ask for the staff members email address. Thank them again for their time, and follow up with an email to confirm the date and time of your meeting, meeting topic, primary contacts name/email address.



### III. Individually Organized Actions:

#### Meeting with your Elected Officials

##### *How to prepare for your meeting*

- Be on time, allow for time to find parking, office, etc.
- Have some notes written out before your meeting that will allow you stay on topic. However, try to maintain an organic conversation; do not completely rely on notes.
- Prepare a brief 1-2-page summary document or provide an info sheet that you can leave behind with the representative.
- Keep politics out of it, even if you do not align with your representative's political party. Focus the conversation on your topic with effective communication and engaging dialogue.
- Bring a business card with you that you can leave behind for follow up questions.
- It is helpful to have one or two more constituents with you. Make sure you have discussed beforehand what topic each person will cover.

##### *Follow up after a meeting*

- Follow up a few days after the meeting with the staff member who set up your meeting. Keep the message brief, thank them for their time, and reiterate the issue that is important to you.
- If the representative had a question for you during your meeting that you did not have the answer to, this is your chance to follow up with that answer.
- Keep in touch. If new information about the issues comes up, bring it to the attention of the legislator.



### III. Individually Organized Actions: Sample Thank You Letter

The Honorable  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative [name]:

I would like to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to meet with me on [date], to talk about [issue you focused on]. Immigrants are the backbone of our community, and I want to make sure that they are represented in [your county/state/].

As you recall, we touched on [list the key issues that you discussed].

[If you are supposed to follow up with information, answer can go here]

I look forward to continuing this relationship and to future meetings with you and your staff. In the meantime, if I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

John Doe

[title and organization if applicable]

### III. Individually Organized Actions: Non-legislative Advocacy

#### *Write a letter to the editor:*

Legislative advocacy is great, but there are other ways to bring awareness to issues that affect immigrants in our communities. One way is to write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper. You can either write a letter explaining why you are in favor of a certain bill, or you can write a letter in response to an article they published. This is a great way to reach a broader audience.

#### *Donate:*

Another way to advocate and show your support is to donate to an organization, like Just Neighbors, that works on issues you care about. There are many different immigrant advocacy organizations that not only need advocates but can also use the monetary resource to make events come to life.

There are many ways to donate aside from direct donations. For example, Just Neighbors has an AmazonSmile account. For every purchase you make on Amazon, we receive 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchase. All you have to do is choose your favorite charity and shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). If you would like to get more people involved, some organizations are in need of specific donations, such as food or hygiene products. You can host drives in your neighborhood and have your neighbors donate goods. After collecting them, you can drop them off at the organization of your choice. Get creative!

## IV. Communally Organized Actions: Protests

### *What is a protest?*

A protest is an event or action where people who share common concerns for an issue gather publicly to express their opinions. The purpose for a protest varies. It can be to influence public opinion; draw attention to/share information about a perceived injustice; gain a wide audience for a cause; push public policy or legislation forward, and more. Overall, the purpose of protests is to demand change.

Protests can take form in many ways, for example:

- Marches
- Sit-ins
- Boycotts

They can also include:

- Speeches
- Music
- Chanting
- Poetry
- Holding signs
- Occupying a specific building/space

### *How to safely protest:*

Just Neighbors encourages you to protest peacefully; however, it is important to always be prepared before you attend a protest. Research any protest you plan to attend to ensure that it represents your values. Buddy up -- a buddy can alert others if you are harmed or arrested and can help record any violations of your First Amendment rights. If for some reason you attend a protest alone, share your location with a trusted person and let a local friend or family know when and where you plan to be. Pack a bag with snacks and plenty of water, especially if you are attending a protest during the summer. Dress appropriately, check the weather forecast, and wear layers if needed. Finally, know your rights. For more tips visit [www.nrdc.org/stories/how-to-protest-safely](http://www.nrdc.org/stories/how-to-protest-safely).

## IV. Communally Organized Actions: Advocacy Days

### *What is an 'Advocacy Day'?*

Advocacy days are events organized by an organization, coalition, or group of people. The event takes place during your state's General Assembly. Advocates are put into small groups to lobby together. They talk to the representative, delegate or senator, or that representative's staff member about an issue that they would like their representative to support during session. These meetings are brief, so each group must be organized and prepared to state the issue/s, give a compelling story, and state their purpose. Often, at the end of the day, the advocates reconvene and go over which representatives showed support and which ones will need further convincing before the end of session.

### *Events to look out for:*

Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations- Immigrant Advocacy Day (January)

United Methodist Church- United Methodist Day at the General Assembly (January)



Figure 13: Immigrant Advocacy Day 2020

## IV. Communally Organized Actions: How to Prepare to Lobby

### *Do your research*

Before your meeting, do some research on where the legislator stands on immigration issues. You can easily check a representative's stance by visiting the Library of Congress online at <https://www.congress.gov/> and typing "immigration" into the search bar.

### *What to bring*

1. It could be helpful to bring a small cross section of your community to the meeting. Think about bringing people who show broad support to the immigration issue you will be addressing. This could be a combination of community members who are affected by the issue, as well as immigrant advocates who work with immigrants daily.

### *Plan the discussion*

2. Assemble talking points and facts on your topic. Meet with the other members of your group to make sure that everyone understands the agenda, and assign one point to each person. Appoint the storyteller as well, and make sure everyone understands that you only have a few minutes to meet with the representative, so they must be brief but concise. Make sure that any specific requests you have of the legislator are asked before the meeting ends. Think -- what do you want them to do about this issue?

### *During the visit*

3. Arrive on time to your meeting time; it is likely that the legislator has a busy schedule during session. Introduce each person attending the meeting with a brief summary about their interest on the issue, what group they represent and where they live. Present the issue you will be discussing with them, making sure you mention the bill number or name at the beginning. Don't assume they know what bill you are talking about. Specify why you support/object the bill, what you would like the legislator to do, and how it would benefit the community they represent. It is often effective to make a direct request, for example, "Delegate XXX, will you support/oppose this bill?" The legislator may agree to support your stance on the bill in the moment, but if not, they might require more information from you. Follow up with them after the meeting with information they requested. Thank them for their time.

## IV. Communally Organized Actions: Non-legislative Advocacy

There are many ways to advocate alongside your community aside from legislative advocacy. Do you have a book group, small faith group, or monthly friends gathering? Do you work with kids or youth? Here are some ways to introduce immigration issues into these circles:

- 1) Read a book, article, or watch one of the many excellent documentaries about immigration and discuss with a group -- either in person or via Zoom. Encourage others to take action.

Check out *Heifer International's* list '10 books to help you understand immigration':

- *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong
  - *Our Women on the Ground: Essays by Arab Women Reporting from the Arab World*
  - *Good Talk: A Memoir in Conversations* by Mira Jacob
  - *This Land is Our Land: An Immigrant's Manifesto* by Suketa Mehta
  - *The Ungrateful Refugee: What Immigrants Never Tell You* by Dina Nayeri
  - *The Refugees* by Viet Thanh Nguyen
  - *Exiled: From the Killing Fields of Cambodia to California and Back* by Katya Cengel
  - *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri
  - *A Grain of Rice* by Nhunh N. Tran-Davies
  - *Manuelito* by Elisa Amado
- 2) Invite groups like Just Neighbors or others who advocate on immigration to talk to your group. Just Neighbors attorneys host a simplified overview of immigration law or 'Immigration 101' events, and our staff can also conduct 'Know Your Rights' presentations. Afterwards, have participants sign postcards to their representatives in favor of current issues.
  - 3) Use some of the dynamic exercises/games out there that address immigration issue, or be creative and create your own!



## V. Extra: Outcomes of Past Advocacy Efforts

### End of 2020 Virginia Legislative Session

#### *Driver's License*

HB 1211 – This bill sought to provide undocumented individuals with access to a standard (non-REAL-ID compliant) driver's license. HB 1211 was passed by the House but conformed to SB 34, a driving privilege card bill. Ultimately, HB 1211 was assigned to a conference committee and emerged from the conference committee process as a driving privilege card bill, which passed the House and Senate. The legislation was signed by the governor.

Chief Patron: Tran ▪ Co-Patrons: Guzman, Lopez, Rasoul, Aird, Ayala, Carr, Delaney, Hayes, Hope, Hudson, Hurst, Keam, Kory, Krizek, Levine, Plum, Price, Samirah, Sickles, Simon, Simonds and Subramanyam

#### Summary as Introduced:

Department of Motor Vehicles; issuance of certain documents; citizenship requirement. Removes the citizenship and legal presence requirements for obtaining a driver's license or special identification card. The bill requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to cancel any (i) REAL ID-compliant driver's license or special identification card and (ii) commercial driver's license or commercial learner's permit if the Department is notified by a federal agency that the individual to whom such document was issued is not in compliance with the citizenship and lawful residency requirements for such license, card, or permit. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2021 and contains technical amendments.

#### Summary as Passed:

Department of Motor Vehicles; driver documents and reexamination fees. Removes the citizenship and legal presence requirements for obtaining a driver's license or special identification card. The bill requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to cancel any (i) REAL ID-compliant driver's license or special identification card and (ii) commercial driver's license or commercial learner's permit if the Department is notified by a federal agency that the individual to whom such document was issued is not in compliance with the citizenship and lawful residency requirements for such license, card, or permit.

Summary by: Evergreen Advocacy Consulting, LLC

## V. Extra: Outcomes of Past Advocacy Efforts

The bill prohibits the release, with some exceptions, of proof documents and information about them, applications relating to the issuance of a driving credential or a special identification card, and photographs of the applicant. The bill creates a \$5 reexamination fee for the administration of a knowledge or skills test for obtaining a driver's license, learner's permit, motorcycle license, or commercial driver's license. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2021, and contains technical amendments.

### *In-State Tuition*

HB 1547: This bill sought to make in-state tuition available to undocumented students. It was ultimately conformed to SB 935, which includes an income tax filing requirement. After being conformed, HB 1547 passed the House and Senate. It is now being evaluated by the governor.

Chief Patron: Lopez ▪ Co-Patrons: Carroll Foy, Keam, Kory, Tran, Ayala, Bulova, Carr, Carter, Cole, J.G., Convirs-Fowler, Delaney, Filler-Corn, Gooditis, Guy, Guzman, Hayes, Helmer, Heretick, Herring, Hope, Hudson, Hurst, Jenkins, Krizek, Levine, Mugler, Mullin, Murphy, Plum, Price, Rasoul, Roem, Samirah, Sickles, Simon, Simonds, Sullivan and Willett

### Summary as Introduced:

Public institutions of higher education; exemption from out-of-state tuition rates. Permits an individual to be exempt from paying out-of-state tuition rates at public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth if he meets the following criteria: (i) attended high school for at least one year in the Commonwealth and either (a) graduated from a public or private high school or program of home instruction in the Commonwealth or (b) passed a high school equivalency examination approved by the Secretary of Education and (ii) registers as an entering student or is enrolled in a public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth. The bill provides that this exemption shall be available to students who meet the criteria regardless of their citizenship or immigration status, except that students with currently valid visas issued under 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(F), 1101(a)(15)(H)(iii), 1101(a)(15)(J) (including only students or trainees), or 1101(a)(15)(M) are not eligible. Information obtained in implementing the provisions of the bill is confidential and shall be used or disclosed only for purposes of administering the program.

Summary by: Evergreen Advocacy Consulting, LLC

## V. Extra: Outcomes of Past Advocacy Efforts

### Summary as Passed:

Public institutions of higher education; eligibility for in-state tuition. Provides that any student is eligible for in-state tuition who (i) attended high school for at least two years in the Commonwealth and either (a) graduated on or after July 1, 2008, from a public or private high school or program of home instruction in the Commonwealth or (b) passed, on or after July 1, 2008, a high school equivalency examination approved by the Secretary of Education; (ii) has submitted evidence that he or, in the case of a dependent student, at least one parent, guardian, or person standing in loco parentis has filed, unless exempted by state law, Virginia income tax returns for at least two years prior to the date of registration or enrollment; and (iii) registers as an entering student or is enrolled in a public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth. The bill states that students who meet these criteria shall be eligible for in-state tuition regardless of their citizenship or immigration status, except students with currently valid visas issued under 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(F), 1101(a)(15)(H)(iii), 1101(a)(15)(J) (including only students or trainees), or 1101(a)(15)(M). Information obtained in the implementation of the provisions of the bill shall only be used or disclosed to individuals other than the student for purposes of determining in-state tuition eligibility. This bill incorporates HB 1138 and is identical to SB 935.

Summary by: Evergreen Advocacy Consulting, LLC

## V. Extra: Additional Immigration Advocacy Organizations

### **Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations (VACOLAO)**

[www.vacolao.org](http://www.vacolao.org)

### **Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights**

[www.virginiaimmigrantrights.org](http://www.virginiaimmigrantrights.org)

### **CASA (VA and MD)**

[www.wearecasa.org](http://www.wearecasa.org)

### **American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Virginia**

[www.acluva.org](http://www.acluva.org)

### **Legal Aid Justice Center (LAJC)**

[www.justice4all.org](http://www.justice4all.org)

### **New Virginia Majority**

[www.newvirginiamajority.org](http://www.newvirginiamajority.org)

### **Virginia Interfaith Council for Public Policy**

<https://www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org/>

### **Centerville Immigration Forum**

[www.centervilleimmigrationforum.org](http://www.centervilleimmigrationforum.org)

### **United We Dream**

[www.unitedwedream.org](http://www.unitedwedream.org)

### **Dream Project**

[www.dreamproject-va.org](http://www.dreamproject-va.org)

### **National Immigration Law Center (NILC)**

[www.nilc.org](http://www.nilc.org)

### **ACLU of Maryland**

<https://www.aclu-md.org/>

**CAIR Coalition**

<https://www.caircoalition.org/>

**Value Our Families (MD)**

<https://www.valueourfamilies.org/mission>