

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 13, 2025

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

We thank you for your commitment to expanding Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and commend your most recent announcements to extend TPS for foreign nationals from El Salvador, Venezuela, Sudan, and Ukraine. We write to urgently request that your administration build on your recent TPS actions and issue a re-designation or extension of status, to the maximum extent possible under the law, for all TPS-eligible countries.

Through the Immigration and Nationality Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, has the discretion to issue a Temporary Protected Status designation and provide for temporary relief from removal and work authorization to certain foreign nationals from countries under specific circumstances, including armed conflict, natural disaster, or other extraordinary circumstances that prevent their safe return.

As of September 30, 2024, approximately 1,095,115 foreign nationals residing in all 50 states, including D.C. and U.S. territories, were protected by TPS. This includes nearly 30,000 TPS recipients in Virginia.

Many of these individuals with TPS have lived in the U.S. for decades, calling this country their home. They are contributing members of our society, including our colleagues and neighbors. The TPS program provides them a way to support themselves, contribute to the U.S. workforce and economy, and keep their families together.

Unfortunately, TPS beneficiaries are at risk of losing their legal status and could face removal proceedings to countries that have been deemed unsafe to return to and where their lives would be at grave risk. The incoming administration has vowed to terminate the TPS program, just as they attempted to during their first term. Within the first six months of this incoming term, six TPS designations, covering over 76,000 beneficiaries, are set to expire.

As such, we strongly urge your administration to re-designate or extend TPS for countries with existing designations. These actions will provide much needed clarity for current TPS holders and prevent harmful deportations to countries designated as unsafe.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator

CC: The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
The Honorable Antony Blinken, Secretary, U.S. Department of State