



**CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS**  
**118<sup>th</sup> Congress**

June 9, 2023

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
301 7th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Mayorkas and Secretary Blinken,

We write to urge you to redesignate El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Nepal, and Venezuela for Temporary Protected Status (TPS). TPS offers temporary, renewable relief from removal and access to work permits for eligible foreign nationals who are unable to return safely to their home countries due to natural disasters, armed conflicts, or other extraordinary conditions. Each of these countries qualifies for a TPS designation under our existing immigration laws and merits the use of the Executive's statutory designation authority.

Venezuela continues to be plagued by violence, instability, and repression, driven in large part by the regime of Nicolás Maduro, and Venezuelans continue to suffer from the country's historic economic collapse and humanitarian crisis. El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua are still reeling from the severe damage inflicted by multiple major hurricanes in recent years; the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic significantly hampered rebuilding efforts. These countries are dealing with crippling hunger and damaged infrastructure, and for some, these challenges have fueled increased violence—including gender-based violence—and contributed to attacks on core democratic institutions such as an independent judiciary and the free press. Nepal has also not yet recovered from the widespread damage from the 2015 earthquake and is not prepared to handle returnees. Providing TPS to eligible beneficiaries would protect families in the United States—many of whom have lived here for long periods of time—from being forced to return to these dangerous conditions in their countries of origin.

In many ways, the Biden administration is to be applauded for thinking about the phenomenon of migration as a regional issue. Using the Executive's statutory authority to redesignate Central American countries and Venezuelan for TPS is not only fully supported by the facts on the ground, but it would be consistent with and supportive of the administration's broader strategy around migration management. Redesignating El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua for TPS will help to stabilize Central America, reduce immigration court and asylum office backlogs, contribute to sensible border security, and improve our economy. Granting TPS would allow families who have lived in the U.S. for years—in many cases, for decades—to remain together. By providing access to work authorization, studies show that TPS will allow people to get better and better paying jobs, which will increase their ability to send remittances to their family members in their home countries. These funds directly boost household incomes, providing families with extra cushion to withstand economic shocks brought on by future natural disasters or other unforeseen events, and help people invest in their own communities, brightening the economic outlook for individuals in these countries and reducing the pressures for future migration.

An estimated 800,000 Americans live in a household with a TPS beneficiary or TPS-eligible person and regularizing their status would not only help these families but also the economy as whole. TPS beneficiaries and their households contribute \$4.6 billion a year in federal and state taxes and represent more than \$10.1 billion in spending power. Ensuring that the country can maintain and grow its workforce will have lasting, valuable impacts. Our economy needs every available worker and TPS designations would have the additional benefit of adding two million eligible workers who are needed across the country including in industries facing shortages. FWD.us estimates that the majority (59%) of current, eligible, and potentially-eligible TPS holders under these new designations, or roughly 1.2 million workers, work in industries experiencing 5% or higher job opening rates. Almost half are in industries with nearly twice the national unemployment average.

Redesignating these countries for TPS will not only help families and TPS holders but it will also help American families and our economy. If the Biden administration is considering an extension of TPS for these countries, it means that the administration considers these countries eligible for TPS and therefore more recent arrivals would also qualify for TPS as they would face the same dangers if returned. We urge you to use your authority under the law provided by Congress to redesignate El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Nepal, and Venezuela for TPS.

Thank you for your urgent consideration.




Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Chair  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus



Robert "Bob" Menendez  
United States Senator  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus



Pete Aguilar  
House Democratic Caucus Chair  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus



Adriano Espaillat  
Deputy Chair  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus



Darren Soto  
Vice Chair of Policy  
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