



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 21, 2022

RECEIVED

By ESEC at 10:36 am, Mar 22, 2022

Dear Mr. President and Secretary Mayorkas:

Thank you for your efforts to designate Venezuela for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) on March 8, 2021. This decision has positively impacted the lives of over 200,000 Venezuelans who were able to apply for TPS in FY2021. With this designation set to expire in September 2022, and the deadline to redesignate occurring 60 days before the expiration, we urge your full and fair consideration of redesignating Venezuela for TPS and moving the required arrival date forward to December 31, 2021.

Political instability caused by Maduro's authoritarian regime has led to massive food and medicine shortages, 94% of the population living in poverty, 60% of the population is suffering from food insecurity and the country's economy is crippled. Venezuela's economy has contracted by more than 74% since 2014 which is more than twice the magnitude of the Great Depression in the United States. Venezuela has also experienced some of the highest homicide and crime victimization rates in Latin America and the Caribbean. Additionally, food and medicine shortages have led to increased infant and maternal mortality rates, and the return of previous eradicated diseases such as diphtheria and measles. The COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated this humanitarian crisis and has led to thousands of deaths.

Due to the ongoing crisis in Venezuela, Venezuelans have consistently been the leading nationality requesting asylum in the United States since 2016. As of November 2021, U.N. agencies believe that over 6 million Venezuelans have fled the country. The number of displaced individuals from Venezuela only continues to grow.

Given the grave conditions in Venezuela, and within all applicable rules and regulations, we strongly urge your full and fair consideration of an extension and redesignation of Venezuela for TPS. We also ask that you move the required arrival date forward to December 31, 2021 to continue to provide safety and support to Venezuelans fleeing the political, economic and humanitarian crisis currently plaguing their home.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Darren Soto
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

Charlie Crist
Member of Congress

Val Demings
Member of Congress



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Handwritten signature of Ted Deutch in blue ink.

Ted Deutch
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Lois Frankel in blue ink.

Lois Frankel
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Carlos A. Gimenez in blue ink.

Carlos A. Gimenez
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Al Lawson in blue ink.

Al Lawson
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Stephanie Murphy in blue ink.

Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of María Elvira Salazar in blue ink.

María Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Michael Waltz in blue ink.

Michael Waltz
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Frederica S. Wilson in blue ink.

Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

April 18, 2022

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

Dear Representative Soto:

Thank you for your March 21, 2022 letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requesting an extension of Venezuela's Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation and redesignation of Venezuela for TPS, including moving the continuous residence date to December 31, 2021. Secretary Mayorkas asked that I respond on his behalf.

I appreciate the concerns you have outlined regarding the situation in Venezuela and your interest in its extension and redesignation for TPS. DHS is closely monitoring conditions in Venezuela and, like you, is concerned about the ongoing situation there. DHS is committed to administering its programs, including TPS, in an equitable manner and makes decisions regarding TPS designations after consultation with interagency partners and careful consideration of the circumstances of the country, pursuant to specific statutory criteria. *See* Immigration and Nationality Act §§ 244(b)(1) and 244(b)(3). As required by the statute, at least 60 days before the expiration of a foreign state's TPS designation or extension, the Secretary, after consultation with appropriate government agencies, must review the conditions in the foreign state designated for TPS to determine whether the conditions for the TPS designation continue to be met. DHS will consult with the Department of State to explore whether to extend and/or to redesignate Venezuela for TPS.

In addition to TPS, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) also offers support that may be available upon request to assist eligible Venezuelan nationals who have been affected by conditions there, including the following:

- Change or extension of nonimmigrant status if eligible Venezuelan nationals are currently in the United States, even if the request is filed after the authorized period of admission has expired;
- Expedited processing of requests for advance parole documents;
- Expedited adjudication of requests for off-campus employment authorization for F-1 students experiencing severe economic hardship;
- Expedited adjudication of employment authorization applications, where appropriate;

- Assistance if applicants received a Request for Evidence or a Notice of Intent to Deny and were unable to appear for an interview, submit evidence, or respond in a timely manner because of the natural disaster; and
- Replacement of lost or damaged immigration or travel documents issued by USCIS, such as a Permanent Resident Card (Green Card).

More information on these options is available under “Special Situations” on our website at <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/special-situations>.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. The cosigners of your letter will receive a separate, identical response. Should you require any additional assistance, please have your staff contact the USCIS Office of Legislative Affairs at (240) 721-3801.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ur M. Jaddou", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Ur M. Jaddou
Director