

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

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By ESEC at 9:10 am, Mar 01, 2022

February 28, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

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

Dear President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas:

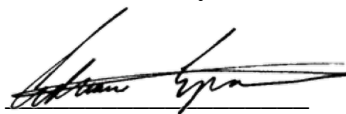
I urge you to designate Ukraine for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and provide Ukrainian students residing in the U.S. through F-1 visas special student relief (SSR).

TPS is a congressionally created humanitarian program managed by the Department of Homeland Security, that provides relief to nationals of designated foreign countries experiencing “ongoing armed conflict,” such that returning nationals to that state “poses a serious threat to their personal safety” 8 U.S.C. § 1254a(b). Ukraine is currently experiencing armed conflict as a result of Russia’s military invasion. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky stated on February 24, that more than 130 people were killed and over 300 people were wounded less than 24 hours after Russia’s military invasion of Ukraine. On February 27, Ukrainian officials stated that more than 350 civilians have been killed, including 14 children. Returning Ukrainian nationals residing in the United States to Ukraine during this ongoing conflict poses a very serious threat to their personal safety.

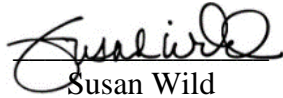
Special Student Relief (SSR) is the suspension of certain regulatory requirements by the Department of Homeland Security for F-1 students who are nationals of countries experiencing emergent circumstances, such as armed conflict. International students from Ukraine residing in the United States should be provided this relief as Ukraine continues experiencing armed conflict.

The United States has a moral and humanitarian responsibility to support Ukrainians during this ongoing conflict. Thank you for your consideration and attention to this timely issue.

Sincerely,



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress


Susan Wild
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Nydia Velazquez
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Sheila Cherfilus McCormick
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Jake Ellzey
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
David Cicilline
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Norma Torres
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Scott Peters
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Karen Bass
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Darren Soto
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Nikema Williams
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Haley Stevens
Member of Congress

/s/ _____
Marie Newman
Member of Congress



**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**

May 16, 2022

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

Dear Representative Espaillat:

Thank you for your February 28, 2022 letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regarding Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Special Student Relief for Ukraine. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is principally responsible for advising the Secretary of Homeland Security on TPS issues and implementing the program. Secretary Mayorkas asked that I respond on his behalf.

On April 21, 2022, DHS announced a new streamlined process, Uniting for Ukraine (U4U), to provide Ukrainian citizens who fled Russia's unprovoked war of aggression with opportunities to come to the United States.¹ To be eligible, Ukrainians must have been residents in Ukraine as of February 11, 2022, have a U.S.-based supporter, complete vaccinations and other public health requirements, and pass biometric and biographic screening and security background checks.

As of April 25, 2022, U.S.-based individuals interested in supporting Ukrainian beneficiaries can file a Form I-134, Declaration of Financial Support, with USCIS as the first step in the U4U process. Individuals are vetted to ensure they can assist those they agree to support. USCIS will reach out to the Ukrainians named in approved Forms I-134 with instructions on how to initiate vetting and apply for a travel document that will authorize them to travel to the United States and be considered for parole, on a case-by-case basis, for a period of two years. Once paroled through this process, Ukrainians are eligible to apply for employment authorization. More details on who is eligible to provide support and who can be considered for parole under U4U can be found on the U4U landing page.²

Secretary Mayorkas also announced the designation of Ukraine for TPS for 18 months to offer protection for individuals who have been residing in the United States since April 11, 2022 and who are nationals or who last habitually resided in Ukraine.³ TPS allows eligible Ukrainian

¹ See <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/uniting-for-ukraine>

² <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/uniting-for-ukraine>

³ <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/03/03/secretary-mayorkas-designates-ukraine-temporary-protected-status-18-months>

nationals in the United States to remain and authorizes them to work lawfully. The Department recently published a Federal Register notice with instructions for applying for TPS and an Employment Authorization Document. In addition, USCIS recently released an alert providing individuals with critical information about immigration avenues that may be available entitled, *“Immigration Help Available to Those Affected by Special Situations, Including the Invasion of Ukraine.”*⁴

To further support the President’s recent commitments, DHS is also working to expand current legal pathways and develop new programs. We are coordinating our efforts closely with our European allies and partners who are on the front lines of this refugee crisis. Individuals, depending on location and circumstances, may be eligible for a nonimmigrant visa, an immigrant visa, TPS, asylum, the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, or the new U4U process for applying for parole.⁵

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 horizontal line extending to the right.

Ur M. Jaddou
Director

⁴ <https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/immigration-help-available-to-those-affected-by-special-situations-including-the-invasion-of-ukraine>

⁵ https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2022-03/Fact%20Sheet%20on%20DHS%20Efforts%20to%20Assist%20Ukrainian%20Nationals_1.pdf