



CITIES for ACTION

The Honorable Kirstjen Nielsen
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Michael Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

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SCANNED/RECEIVED
BY ESEC SEC

April 27, 2018

Dear Secretary Nielsen and Secretary Pompeo:

We, the undersigned mayors and county executives of the Cities for Action coalition, urge you to extend Honduras's Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for 18 months. Cities for Action is a national, bipartisan coalition of over 175 cities and counties that advocates for policies that protect and support our immigrant residents. Approximately 57,000 Honduran TPS recipients have lived in the United States since at least 1998, many of whom reside in and contribute to the cities and counties we represent. We are gravely concerned that failure to extend Honduran TPS will lead to the separation of families, negatively impacting thousands of children and causing irreparable harm to Hondurans who call our communities home. We encourage you to make the humanitarian and practical-minded decision to extend Honduras's TPS designation.

Honduras's TPS applies to a limited group of Hondurans who were living in the United States when Hurricane Mitch devastated the country in 1998. The storm killed more than 5,000 people, wiped out the majority of Honduras's infrastructure, and destroyed 70% of its crops. Hundreds of landslides and the worst flooding of the twentieth century were followed by outbreaks of cholera and Dengue fever. At the time, Honduran President Carlos Roberto Flores estimated that the hurricane reversed 50 years of progress in the country. The conditions in Honduras have deteriorated further with the rise of mosquito-borne diseases following Tropical Storm Hanna in 2008 and a catastrophic drought that caused food insecurity and economic recession. The Bush and Obama Administrations repeatedly extended Honduras' TPS designation, recognizing that the devastation and the country's incomplete recovery efforts hobbled Honduras's ability to safely reabsorb its nationals.

Honduran TPS holders have established lives and families in our communities despite continued uncertainty over the future of Honduras and their own TPS designation. Honduran TPS recipients, on average, have lived in the U.S. for over 20 years and have an estimated 53,500 U.S.-born children. With a labor force participation rate of nearly 85 percent, most Honduran TPS recipients are employed in the fields of construction, landscaping, hospital care, child care, and food services – building and supporting our cities and our residents. Despite living in limbo with a temporary status that in many cases cannot lead to permanent residency, over 9,000 Honduran TPS recipients have purchased a home with a mortgage. Our cities value the immense contributions of Honduran TPS recipients – as family members, workers, and homeowners – and we urge you to provide a measure of certainty to our fellow residents with an extension of TPS.



As city and county leaders, the safety and well-being of our residents is of utmost importance. We recognize that Honduran TPS holders are well-established residents with deep ties to our communities through their families, jobs, and homes. We advise you to recognize the extraordinary hardship that forcing these individuals to return to Honduras would cause and the social and fiscal impacts of separating families and removing workers in our communities. Therefore, we urge you to extend Honduras's TPS designation for a full 18 months.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Walsh, Mayor of Boston, MA

Pam Hemminger, Mayor of Chapel Hill, NC

Thomas G. Ambrosino, City Manager of Chelsea, MA

Rahm Emanuel, Mayor of the City of Chicago, IL

Toni Preckwinkle, President of Cook County, IL

Mike Rawlings, Mayor of Dallas, TX

Riley H. Rogers, Mayor of Dolton, IL

John J. Bauters, Mayor of the City of Emeryville, CA

Carlo DeMaria, Mayor of Everett, MA

Karen Freeman-Wilson, Mayor of Gary, IN

Dow Constantine, County Executive of King County, WA

David J. Berger, Mayor of Lima, OH

Robert Garcia, Mayor of Long Beach, CA

Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles, CA

Jacob Frey, Mayor of Minneapolis, MN

Isiah Leggett, County Executive of Montgomery County, MD

Jennifer Gregerson, Mayor of Mukilteo, WA

Bill de Blasio, Mayor of the City of New York, NY

Libby Schaaf, Mayor of Oakland, CA

Jim Kenney, Mayor of Philadelphia, PA

Adrian O. Mapp, Mayor of the City of Plainfield, NJ

Liz Lempert, Mayor of Princeton, NJ

Jorge Elorza, Mayor of Providence, RI

Stephanie Venegas, Mayor of Santa Monica, CA

Thomas M. Roach, Mayor of White Plains, NY

Muriel Bowser, Mayor of Washington, D.C.



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

June 11, 2018

The Honorable Martin J. Walsh
Mayor of Boston
1 City Hall Square, Suite 500
Boston, Massachusetts 02201

Dear Mayor Walsh:

Thank you for your April 27, 2017 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

The Secretary of Homeland Security's authority to designate a country for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and to extend or terminate a country's existing designation is based upon specific statutory criteria. *See* Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) § 244(b). U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is principally responsible for advising the Secretary on TPS issues and implementing the program.

Prior to the current expiration date for an existing TPS designation, the Secretary of Homeland Security reviews conditions in the foreign country and, after consultation with other appropriate federal agencies, determines whether the statutory conditions for TPS continue to be met. Under the INA, if the Secretary determines that the conditions for designation continue to be met with respect to a given country, the Secretary extends the designation. But if the Secretary determines that the conditions are no longer met with respect to that country, she is required to terminate the designation. Additional information regarding TPS designations is available in the *Federal Register* and on the USCIS website. Recent TPS decisions are the subject of ongoing litigation; therefore, we are unable to comment further.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. Please share this information with the cosigners of your letter. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. Francis Cissna".

L. Francis Cissna
Director