

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
COMMITTEE REPORT**

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

**DRAFT**

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**TO:** All Councilmembers

**FROM:** Chairman Phil Mendelson  
Committee of the Whole

**DATE:** November 21, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Report on PR 22-525, “Sense of the Council in Support of Legislative Action to Protect Temporary Protected Status Resolution of 2017”

The Committee of the Whole, to which Proposed Resolution 22-525, the “Sense of the Council in Support of Legislative Action to Protect Temporary Protected Status Resolution of 2017” was referred, reports favorably thereon **with amendments**, and recommends approval by the Council.

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**I. BACKGROUND AND NEED**

The purpose of PR 22-525, the “Sense of the Council in Support of Legislative Action to Protect Temporary Protected Status Resolution of 2017,” is to call upon the United States Congress to take immediate legislative action to extend temporary protected status (TPS) for certain foreign nationals. In the coming months, hundreds of thousands of foreign nationals stand to lose their TPS immigration status, and without this status, these individuals will be subject to deportation to countries that are currently in crisis.

In 1990, the United States created a humanitarian immigration status, known as TPS, for foreign nationals whose countries are engaged in ongoing armed conflict, experiencing or recovering from an environmental disaster, or facing extraordinary life-threatening conditions.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status>.

Per Section 244 of the Immigration and Naturality Act, a country may receive a TPS designation for an initial period of no less than six months and no more than 18 months.<sup>2</sup> After the initial designation period, a country’s TPS designation may be extended for up to 18 months at a time, and many of the countries who have received a TPS designation have continued to hold that designation for several years.

Since 1991, 13 countries have been granted a TPS designation as depicted in Table 1 below.

Country	Initial Designation Date	Designation Expiration Rate
El Salvador	March 9, 2001	March 9, 2018
Guinea	November 20, 2014 <sup>3</sup>	May 21, 2017
Haiti	January 21, 2010	January 22, 2018
Honduras	January 5, 1999	July 5, 2018
Liberia	November 20, 2014 <sup>4</sup>	May 21, 2017
Nepal	June 24, 2015	June 24, 2018
Nicaragua	January 5, 1999	January 5, 2019 <sup>5</sup>
Sierra Leone	November 20, 2014 <sup>6</sup>	May 21, 2017
Somalia	September 16, 1991	September 17, 2018
South Sudan	November 3, 2011	May 2, 2019
Sudan	November 4, 1997	November 2, 2018
Syria	March 29, 2012	March 31, 2018
Yemen	September 3, 2015	September 3, 2018

Additionally, over the past 27 years, approximately 325,000 individuals from the 13 countries mentioned above have become TPS beneficiaries. Notably, over 90 percent of the TPS beneficiaries are from El Salvador, Haiti, and Honduras.<sup>7</sup> Moreover, the Washington DC area has one of the largest Salvadoran populations in the country and is home to the largest Salvadoran TPS contingency in the United States.<sup>8</sup>

In order for individuals to become TPS beneficiaries, they are subject to a high level of scrutiny, as they are required to apply to the United States Department of Homeland Security in order to receive a TPS designation and must meet several stringent criteria. Specifically, under federal law, individuals cannot have been convicted of a felony or more than one misdemeanor in the United States, must have been continuously residing in the United States from a set point prior

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.uscis.gov/ilink/docView/SLB/HTML/SLB/0-0-0-1/0-0-0-29/0-0-0-7238.html>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.uscis.gov/news/dhs-announces-temporary-protected-status-designations-liberia-guinea-and-sierra-leone>

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2017/11/06/acting-secretary-elaine-duke-announcement-temporary-protected-status-nicaragua-and>.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.uscis.gov/news/dhs-announces-temporary-protected-status-designations-liberia-guinea-and-sierra-leone>

<sup>7</sup> Robert Warren and Donald Kerwin, *A Statistical and Demographic Profile of the US Temporary Protected Status Populations from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti*, Journal on Migration and Human Security, pages 577-592.

<sup>8</sup> Robert Warren and Donald Kerwin, *A Statistical and Demographic Profile of the US Temporary Protected Status Populations from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti*, Journal on Migration and Human Security, pages 577-592.

to the individual's country receiving a TPS designation, must be continuously physically present from "the effective date of the most recent designation date of [the individual's] country," and is not barred for other security and criminal reasons.<sup>9</sup> Additionally, individuals must reapply at regular intervals, which are generally 18 months, in order to maintain his or her TPS designation.<sup>10</sup> Once an individual becomes a TPS beneficiary, he or she cannot be deported from the United States during the time in which the individual is a TPS beneficiary. In addition, an individual is allowed to gain employment, attend school, obtain a driver's license, and purchase health insurance.<sup>11</sup>

Yet, despite the rigorous review that both countries and foreign nationals from the designated countries undergo, the Trump Administration has signaled that it intends to reduce the number of countries that qualify for a TPS designation even though they continue to need it. On May 22, 2017, the Trump Administration announced that it was only extending Haiti's TPS designation, which was set to expire on July 22, 2017, by six, instead of the usual 18, months.<sup>12</sup> Thus, if the Trump Administration or United States Congress does not take action by January 22, 2018 to extend Haiti's TPS designation, approximately 50,000 Haitians will face the possibility of deportation back to a country that still has not recovered from a devastating 7.0 magnitude earthquake, which occurred on January 12, 2010.<sup>13</sup> When determining whether to extend Haiti's TPS designation from January 23, 2016 to July 22, 2017, the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in consultation with the United States Department of State, found that Haiti was still facing persistent and dangerous circumstances, stemming from the 2010 earthquake. Specifically, Haiti had a "housing shortage, a cholera epidemic, limited access to medical care, damage to the economy, political instability, security risks, limited access to food and water, a heightened vulnerability of women and children, and environmental risks."<sup>14</sup> These issues continue. Moreover, Haiti suffered damage from Hurricane Matthew on October 4, 2016 and earlier this year, the country suffered heavy rains, resulting in an even greater food insecurity.<sup>15</sup> These two natural disasters, coupled with the enduring issues that arose after the 2010 earthquake, make it unsafe for the 50,000 Haitian foreign nationals to return to their country. Given that Haiti's TPS designation is set to expire in two months, it is imperative that Congress pass legislation to protect TPS beneficiaries.

In addition to Haiti, DHS announced on November 6, 2017 that Nicaragua's TPS designation was not being renewed and that it had failed to make a decision with regard to Honduras's designation.<sup>16</sup> Nicaragua's TPS termination date was originally January 5, 2018 but

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status>

<sup>10</sup> See Evelyn Haro written statement pages 2-3.

<sup>11</sup> See Alicia Wilson, La Clinica del Pueblo written testimony, page 1. TPS recipients may obtain health insurance through their jobs if offered by their employers, as well as buy health insurance through the District of Columbia's health insurance exchange.

<sup>12</sup> Add citation

<sup>13</sup> See *Immigrant Legal Resource Center* April 2017 policy report, pages 3-4 and <http://www.politifact.com/florida/article/2017/may/22/donald-trump-extends-temporary-protected-status-ha/>.

<sup>14</sup> 80 fed reg 51582 (Aug. 25, 2015), available at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-08-25/html/2015-21006.htm>.

<sup>15</sup> 822 Fed Reg 23830 <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-05-24/pdf/2017-10749.pdf>.

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2017/11/06/acting-secretary-elaine-duke-announcement-temporary-protected-status-nicaragua-and->

DHS is postponing the termination date until January 5, 2019 to allow for a smooth transition for Nicaraguan foreign nationals.<sup>17</sup> Yet, the Nicaraguan foreign nationals who are TPS beneficiaries have resided in the United States for almost 20 years,<sup>18</sup> for Nicaragua received its TPS designation on January 5, 1999 as a result of Hurricane Mitch, which struck Nicaragua in October 1998.<sup>19</sup> Nicaraguan TPS beneficiaries may be forced to leave their families and the lives they have built in the United States if Congress does not act to protect these individuals. Additionally, the issues that plagued Nicaragua after Hurricane Mitch still have not been resolved, and the country has experienced several environmental disasters in the past few years, making it unsafe and thus necessary for Nicaragua's TPS designation to be continued.<sup>20</sup>

With regard to Honduras, DHS's failure to determine whether Honduras's TPS designation should be extended resulted in Honduras's TPS designation only being extended by six months to July 5, 2018.<sup>21</sup> Failing to continue Honduras's TPS designation will result in approximately 57,000 Hondurans being forced to a country that has a high murder rate, especially of women.<sup>22</sup> Additionally, 23% of the Honduran TPS population were 15 years old or younger when they were brought to the United States, and over half of Honduran TPS beneficiaries have lived in the United States for over 20 years.<sup>23</sup> Further, deportation of the Honduran TPS population would have an adverse effect on the US's economy, as Honduras has the second largest TPS population in the country.<sup>24</sup> Deporting Honduran TPS beneficiaries would cost the US over \$700 million, would result in an almost \$11 billion in gross domestic product lost, and would lead to over a billion dollars of social security and Medicaid contributions lost.<sup>25</sup>

Given the recent decisions by DHS, one should be concerned about DHS's decision with regard to El Salvador's TPS designation, as it is set to expire on March 9, 2018. El Salvador has the highest number of TPS beneficiaries in the United States, and the largest Salvadoran TPS contingency resides in the Washington DC area. Thus, a decision to terminate El Salvador's TPS designation will not only have a large impact on the United States' economy as a whole but will also be felt the most in this region. Moreover, given the fact that over 30,000 Salvadoran TPS beneficiaries live in the Washington DC area, the familial impact will also be particularly strong in this area. Over 50% of the Salvadoran TPS population has been in the United States for over 20 years and 20% of the population was brought to the US when they were 15 years old or younger. Further, El Salvador, like many other TPS designated countries, continues to face challenges from

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<sup>17</sup> *Id.*

<sup>18</sup> Because individuals are required to reside in the United States before a country receives a TPS designation and required to be continuously present in the United States during the TPS designation, Nicaraguan foreign nationals that are TPS beneficiaries must have been in the United States and continued to reside here since Dec. 30, 1998. See <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status/temporary-protected-status-designated-country-nicaragua>.

<sup>19</sup> See 81 Fed. Reg. 30325.

<sup>20</sup> See <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status/temporary-protected-status-designated-country-nicaragua>.

<sup>21</sup> Per federal law, if a decision is not made by DHS with regard to a country's TPS designation, the designation is extended for six months. Sec. 244 of INA.

<sup>22</sup> See Latin America Working Group testimony.

<sup>23</sup> See page 581 of Warren and Kerwin report.

<sup>24</sup> See ILRC report.

<sup>25</sup> *Id.*

the environmental disasters that led to El Salvador being given a TPS designation in the first place. Additional environmental disasters have occurred in the past 16 years, which have led to food insecurity and infrastructure challenges. Yet, despite these continued issues, DHS's most recent TPS designation decisions, as well as the anti-immigrant sentiments emanating from the Trump Administration, raises serious concern that El Salvador will lose its TPS designation. Thus, Congress needs to pass legislation to protect TPS beneficiaries.

Over the next 12 months, TPS designations are set to expire for eight of the ten countries that currently have this designation. Given that most, if not all, of the TPS designated countries still are unsafe for their foreign nationals to return to, as well as the social and economic impact that will occur if these countries lose their TPS designations, it is imperative that Congress take an immediate action to protect TPS beneficiaries. Without action, hundreds of thousands of individuals will risk being deported to countries that are still dangerous and ripped from their families, friends, and lives that they have built in the United States. For these reasons the Council urges Congress to take legislative action as soon as possible.

## II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- October 3, 2017 PR 22-525, "Sense of the Council in Support of Legislative Action to Protect Temporary Protected Status Resolution of 2017" is introduced by Chairman Mendelson and Councilmembers Cheh, Grosso, Allen, McDuffie, R. White, Silverman, Nadeau, Todd, Gray, Bonds, Evans, and T. White and is referred to the Committee of the Whole.
- October 6, 2017 Notice of Intent to Act on PR 22-525 is published in the *District of Columbia Register*.
- October 13, 2017 Notice of a Public Hearing on PR 22-525 is published in the *District of Columbia Register*.
- November 2, 2017 The Committee of the Whole holds a public hearing on PR 22-525.
- November 21, 2017 The Committee of the Whole marks-up PR 22-525.

## III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

The Committee received no comments from the Executive.

## IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received no testimony or comments from any Advisory Neighborhood Commission.

## V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on PR 22-525 on Thursday, November 2, 2017. The testimony summarized below is from that hearing. Copies of written testimony are attached to this report.

*Abel Nunez, Executive Director, Central American Resource Center*, testified in support of PR 22-525.

*Jessica Wertheim, Member, Power People DC*, testified in support of PR 22-525.

*Xiomara Flores, Field Representative, SEIU 32BJ*, testified in support of PR 22-525.

*Susannah Volpe, Associate Director, DC Immigration, Ayuda*, testified in support of PR 22-525.

*Alicia Wilson, Executive Director, La Clinica del Pueblo*, testified in support of PR 22-525.

*Lori Kaplan, President & CEO, Latin American Youth Center*, testified in support of PR 22-525.

*Allison Kokkoros, CEO, Carlos*, testified in support of PR 22-525.

*Rev. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Director, Disciples of Christ, Refugee & Immigration Ministries, and Downtown DC Congregations Cluster Leader for the Sanctuary DMV Congregations Network*, testified in support of PR 22-525.

*Estefania Chavez Higgins, Staff Attorney, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of DC*, testified in support of PR 22-525.

*Loide Rosa Jorge, Attorney, U.S. Immigration & Nationality Law*, testified in support of PR 22-525.

*Denise Woods, Member of Expanded Sanctuary Leadership, All Souls Unitarian Church*, discussed her recent trip to the United States/Mexico border in order to better understand immigration issues.

*Victoria Latus, Student Attorney, Immigration Justice Clinic at American University Washington College of Law*, testified in support of PR 22-525.

*Noel Karl Lebondzo Gandou, Commissioner, Mayor's Office on African Affairs*, testified in support of PR 22-525.

*Lisa Haugaard, Executive Director, Latin America Working Group*, testified in support of PR 22-525.

*Evelyn Haro, Student Attorney, Immigration Justice Clinic at American University Washington College of Law*, testified in support of PR 22-525.

*Marybeth Onyeukwu, Black Immigration Network DC*, testified in support of PR 22-525.

*Kreszentia Duer, People Power, DC*, testified in support of PR 22-525.

The Committee also received written statements from *Roberto Solorzano; Gabriela Mossi, Executive Director, Washington English Center; Vicki Gass, Senior Policy Advisor, Central America, Oxfam America; Santos Gonzales; Abel Hernandez; Brandon White, Chief Program Officer, Capital Partners for Education; and Kids in Need of Defense* in support of PR 22-525. These statements are attached to this report.

## VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

PR 22-525 has no impact on existing law. It is a statement of the Council urging the United States Congress to pass legislation to protect TPS beneficiaries.

## VII. FISCAL IMPACT

According to District of Columbia Official Code § 1-301.47a, fiscal impact statements are not needed for emergency declaration, ceremonial, or sense of the Council resolutions.

## VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <u>Section 1</u> | Short title.  |
| <u>Section 2</u> | Sets forth findings of the Council regarding the need for the United States Congress to pass legislation to protect temporary protected status beneficiaries.   |
| <u>Section 3</u> | Declares the sense of the Council to urge the United States Congress to pass legislation immediately to protect individuals who receive temporary protected status.   |
| <u>Section 4</u> | Requires that a copy of the resolution, upon adoption, be transmitted to the Office of the President of the United States, the Leaders of both the Democratic and Republican party of the United States House of Representatives and of the United States Senate, the Attorney General of the United States, and the Mayor. |
| <u>Section 5</u> | Provides that PR 22-525 shall take effect immediately.  |

## IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

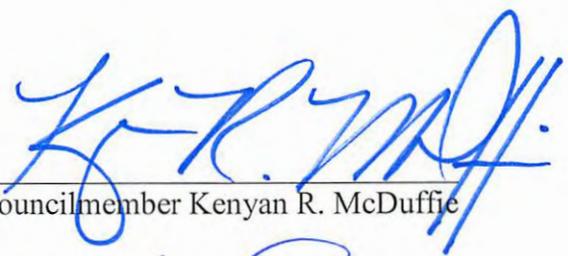
On November 21, 2017 the Committee met to consider PR 22-525, the “Sense of the Council in Support of Legislative Action to Protect Temporary Protected Status Resolution of 2017.” The meeting was called to order at \_\_\_\_\_, and PR 22-525 was item VI-E on the agenda. After ascertaining a quorum (Chairman Mendelson and Councilmembers Allen, Bonds, Cheh, Evans, Gray, Grosso, McDuffie, Nadeau, Silverman, Todd, R. White, and T. White present), Chairman Mendelson moved *en bloc* without objection, the committee print and report for PR 22-525 with leave for staff to make technical, editorial, conforming changes. After an opportunity for discussion, the vote on both the print and report was \_\_\_\_\_ (Chairman Mendelson and Councilmembers Allen, Bonds, Cheh, Evans, Gray, Grosso, McDuffie, Nadeau, Silverman, Todd, R. White, and T. White voting \_\_\_\_\_). The meeting adjourned at \_\_\_\_\_.

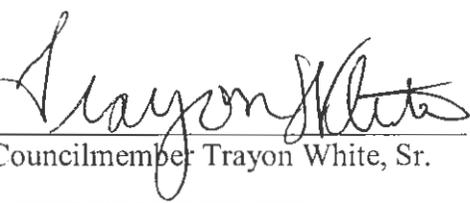
## X. ATTACHMENTS

1. PR 22-525 as introduced.
2. Written Testimony.
3. Legal Sufficiency Determination for PR 22-525.
4. Committee Print for PR 22-525.

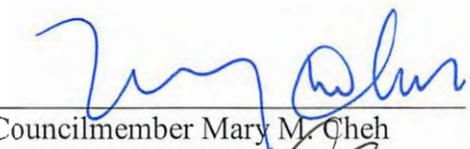
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Chairman Phil Mendelson

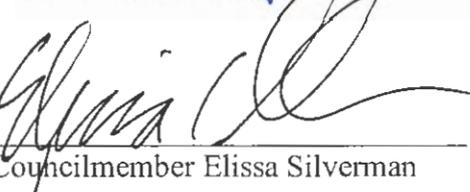
  
Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie

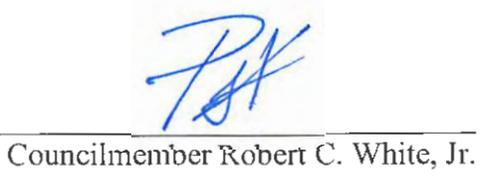
  
Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.

  
Councilmember Jack Evans

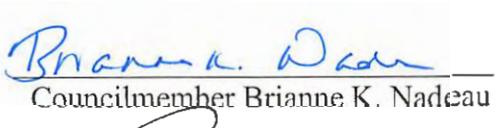
  
Councilmember Mary M. Cheh

  
Councilmember David Grosso

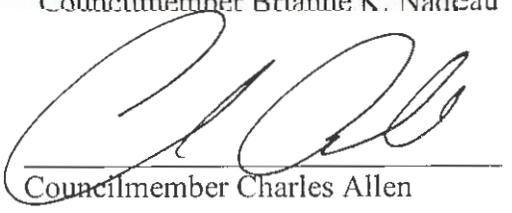
  
Councilmember Elissa Silverman

  
Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

  
Councilmember Vincent C. Gray

  
Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

  
Councilmember Anita Bonds

  
Councilmember Charles Allen

  
Councilmember Brandon T. Todd

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

\_\_\_\_\_

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

\_\_\_\_\_

To declare the sense of the Council that the Office of the President of the United States and the

1 United States Congress should act immediately to extend Temporary Protected Status to  
2 foreign nationals whose countries are affected by ongoing armed conflicts, environmental  
3 disasters, and extraordinary life-threatening conditions.  
4

5 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
6 resolution may be cited as the “Sense of the Council in Support of Legislative Action to Protect  
7 Temporary Protected Status Resolution of 2017”.

8 Sec. 2. Findings:

9 The Council finds that:

10 (1) Temporary Protected Status (“TPS”) was created in 1990 to protect foreign  
11 nationals from countries experiencing ongoing armed conflicts, environmental disasters, or  
12 extraordinary life-threatening conditions from threats of deportation back to these dangers.

13 (2) Since 1991, the United States has granted TPS to foreign nationals from  
14 Somalia, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Haiti, Syria, Sudan, South Sudan, Yemen, and  
15 Nepal, and it has renewed their protected status every 18 months since then.

16 (3) On May 22, 2017, President Trump threatened a reduction in TPS for Haitian  
17 nationals in the United States by reducing the renewal of their protected stay from 18 months to  
18 6 months.

19 (4) Approximately 300,000 individuals have benefitted from TPS and nearly  
20 32,359 of them reside in the District. The District has one of the highest concentration of TPS  
21 beneficiaries in the country.

22 (5) Beneficiaries of this program are granted limited immigration benefits such as  
23 the opportunity to work, go to school, and obtain a driver’s license.

24 (6) The TPS beneficiaries have contributed to the growth and prosperity of our  
25 country’s economy by adding \$4.5 billion annually to our gross domestic product.

1           (7) Terminating TPS will leave nearly 300,000 people vulnerable to deportation,  
2 severing familial relationships and possibly damaging our country's economic strength.

3           (8) Conditions in designated countries that allow for individuals to gain TPS still  
4 remain dangerous and unsafe and deportation would place these individuals and their families in  
5 grave risk.

6           Sec. 3. It is the sense of the Council that United States Congress should act immediately  
7 to pass legislation that continues to protect TPS beneficiaries.

8           Sec. 4. The Secretary to the Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of  
9 this resolution, upon its adoption, to the Office of the President of the United States, the Leaders  
10 of both the Democratic and Republican party of the United States House of Representatives and  
11 of the United States Senate, the Attorney General of the United States, and the Office of the  
12 Mayor.

13          Sec. 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

**Council of the District of Columbia**

**Committee of The Whole**

PR 22-448, Sense of the Council in Support of Legislative Action to Protect Dreamers Resolution of 2017

PR 22-525, Sense of the Council in Support of Legislative Action to Protect Temporary Protected Status Resolution of 2017

**November 2, 2017**

My name is Abel Nunez and I am the Executive Director at the Central American Resource Center, also known as CARECEN. Our mission is to foster the comprehensive development of the Latino community in the Washington metropolitan region. We provide direct services, promote grassroots empowerment, civic engagement and human rights advocacy.

I would like to thank all of the DC Council Members for co-introducing resolutions PR22-448 and PR22-525 that support both Dreamers and Temporary Protection Status (TPS) beneficiaries. These resolutions send a strong message to the Trump administration on the need to continue the humanitarian programs that protect immigrants that have made the District their home. The fiery rhetoric stemming from this administration has fueled fears and uncertainties among immigrants, especially when engaging with law enforcement. When immigrants are too afraid to call police to report a crime or serve as a witness it creates a public safety issue for all of us. Although the authority of allowing Dreamers and TPS beneficiaries lies with the federal government, the local government plays the most important role in their daily lives.

There is strong bipartisan consensus that DACA and TPS-holders should not be deported. Many Congressional Representatives and Senators have written letters of support to the Department of Homeland Security demanding that TPS be continued. Currently, multiple bills have been introduced in Congress to legalize their status. There is also support from other sectors. Letters and statements have been made by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Essential Immigrant Workers Coalition. Local communities such as Mt. Rainier, Hyattsville and Maryland Municipal League, have approved resolutions supporting Dreamers and TPS beneficiaries.

Reports from the Center for Migration Studies, Immigrant Legal Resource Center, among others demonstrate that TPS beneficiaries and Dreamers embody the entrepreneurial spirit, making societal and financial contributions to our nation and our city. Ending DACA and TPS would shatter the lives and dreams of more than 800,000 immigrant youth and more than 300,000 TPS holders. The District will be disproportionately impacted if TPS is ended. The Washington Area is the seventh largest metropolitan region where immigrants call home. According to the American Immigration Council, 1 in 7 Washingtonians are immigrants or foreign-born. The DC area is also home to the second largest Salvadoran population in the US and it is the largest Latino and Immigrant community in DC that has an estimated 8,000 TPS beneficiaries. The economic impact will be felt primarily in the construction and hospitality industry since Salvadorans make up a large percentage of that workforce. For example, the construction companies have made estimates that they will lose 20% of their skilled workforce.

There is enough scientific evidence that finds that these immigrant groups merit a permanent solution, but it is unlikely that Congress will be able to come together, so the temporary solution is to extend both programs. But Donald Trump's lack of commitment to protect these communities is further confirmation that he is on the side of the white supremacists, xenophobes and against the moral and economic interests of our country.

Beyond the numbers and the rhetoric there are lives at stake. People like Karla, who at 9 years old came to the United States with her younger brother from El Salvador in 1998, and settled with her mom and aunt in Philadelphia. Karla's mother had come to the United States a few months before to give her children a better life and soon realized that they were living in El Salvador with very limited essentials, such as running water, electricity and basic needs to survive. She decided her children needed to be in the United States with her. Karla remembers her journey with her 4-year-old brother and aunt, traveling through the desert, counting on a smuggler to get them where they needed to go and how it was a difficult time but knew things would be better. In 2001, she applied for TPS and pursued her dream of attending nursing school. Nursing was her passion, caring for the sick, especially children, is an ambition that requires strength and character. Today, as the Lead Nurse of one of the largest home care facilities in Philadelphia, Karla wants to be a role model and inspiration to Latina girls and show them that anything you put your mind to you can accomplish with hard work and dedication. Karla knows that if TPS were to be cancelled, many of the opportunities she has had till now, will be taken away from her. She will be separated from her family and loved ones, her future and dreams will slowly but surely dwindle away.

The resolutions that we are discussing today send a strong message that DC is a welcoming city for all. Our Mayor has proclaimed that the District is a sanctuary city, but more must be done. As a sanctuary city, we have a responsibility to protect our vulnerable communities by adopting policies that protect them. I am urging the city council to approve currently legislation that safeguards the dignity and legal rights of immigrants. An example is The *Access to Justice for Immigrants Amendment Act* would ensure that those least protected among us have access to legal service providers. The advancement of this bill would create a long-term funding solution and demonstrate a DC leadership that is committed to all its residents. It is imperative that municipal governments step in to ensure that we live up to our American values. Washington D.C. can continue to set an example and join other states that have already implemented such a successful program.

Once again, on behalf of CARECEN, other advocates and the community we serve, I would like to thank you for your commitments to improve and safeguard the immigrant community. We will continue working with councilmembers and other organizations to ensure the protections of immigrants. Thank you.

Abel Nunez  
Executive director  
Abel.Nunez@carecencd.org

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF PR22-448 and PR22-525

### **Sense of the Council in Support of Legislative Action to Protect Dreamers Resolution of 2017 and Sense of the Council in Support of Legislative Action to Protect Temporary Protected Status Resolution of 2017**

To: Chairman Phil Mendelson and the Committee of the Whole

From: Jessica Wertheim LGSW, Member of People Power DC

Date: 11/2/2017

First, I want to thank all Councilmembers for co-introducing these important resolutions in support of our immigrant communities and allowing me the opportunity to testify today. My name is Jessica Wertheim and I am a People Power DC activist, although I am here today as a community member and representing myself. People Power is the ACLU's grassroots movement that grew as a direct response to President Trump's mass deportation agenda.

With the rescission of DACA and the continued existence of TPS at risk, it is critical that policymakers understand the serious consequences at hand. The lives of 800,000 immigrant youth who once received protection under DACA are now at risk. In just a few months, individuals who were once able to work, attend school, and raise families, will begin losing their protection. DREAMers were raised in the U.S., this is the only home they know, and they are contributing to our communities in countless ways, truly living the American Dream.

The majority of the TPS population has also lived in the U.S. for a long time. TPS recipients have lived in the country for an average of twenty years and most have at least one U.S.-born child.<sup>1</sup> Forcing these individuals to uproot their lives and return to countries that are unsafe and unable to absorb the numbers of people is wrong on an economic, social, and moral level.

Logistically, deporting all Salvadoran, Honduran, and Haitian TPS holders would cost taxpayers \$3.1 billion dollars.<sup>2</sup>

TPS holders have a higher rate of workforce participation than any other group: 93.9% of men with TPS and 82.1% of women with TPS are currently working.<sup>3</sup> TPS holders from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti contribute a combined \$4.5 billion in pre-tax wages or salary income annually to our nation's GDP.<sup>4</sup> Ending TPS for these three countries would result in a \$45.2 billion reduction in GDP over a decade and cause a \$6.9 billion reduction in Social Security and Medicare contributions over a decade.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ipsr.ku.edu/migration/pdf/TPS\\_Report.pdf](http://ipsr.ku.edu/migration/pdf/TPS_Report.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/2017-04-18\\_economic\\_contributions\\_by\\_salvadoran\\_honduran\\_and\\_haitian\\_tps\\_holders.pdf](https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/2017-04-18_economic_contributions_by_salvadoran_honduran_and_haitian_tps_holders.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://ipsr.ku.edu/migration/pdf/TPS\\_Report.pdf](http://ipsr.ku.edu/migration/pdf/TPS_Report.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [http://ipsr.ku.edu/migration/pdf/TPS\\_Report.pdf](http://ipsr.ku.edu/migration/pdf/TPS_Report.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/2017-04-18\\_economic\\_contributions\\_by\\_salvadoran\\_honduran\\_and\\_haitian\\_tps\\_holders.pdf](https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/2017-04-18_economic_contributions_by_salvadoran_honduran_and_haitian_tps_holders.pdf)

Metropolitan areas that have the largest TPS populations are expected to feel the greatest impact of the GDP loss. Given that the majority of TPS holders from El Salvador (32,359) live in the District, this region is particularly vulnerable without a TPS extension.<sup>6</sup>

As a licensed graduate social worker in the District of Columbia, it is important I raise the mental health aspect. The stress of the uncertainty can have damaging effects on the children of TPS holders and DACA recipients. Watching the news and reading stories of families being ripped apart is heart breaking and from a clinical perspective, can have serious downstream effects. It can impair school performance and cause health issues such as substance abuse, obesity, or cardiovascular diseases.<sup>7</sup> It's important we consider the cost for individuals, as well as society at large.

As the false narrative around immigration continues, the myths about immigrants spread, and the detaining and imprisonment of innocent undocumented immigrants grows, it is more important than ever that we make an effort to preserve the rights of our vulnerable community members. DC calls itself a Sanctuary City, but that's not enough. Now it is time to do the work, we need to show up for our immigrant communities and push for legislative solutions for these individuals who are vital to our communities.

Sincerely,

Jessica Wertheim

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<sup>6</sup> [https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/2017-04-18\\_economic\\_contributions\\_by\\_salvadoran\\_honduran\\_and\\_haitian\\_tps HOLDERS.pdf](https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/2017-04-18_economic_contributions_by_salvadoran_honduran_and_haitian_tps HOLDERS.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-immigrants-daca/daca-tied-to-better-mental-health-for-children-of-immigrants-idUSKCN1BJ2M2>



**Testimony of Xiomara Flores, Field Representative 32BJ SEIU  
PR 22-448 & PR 22-525  
November 2, 2017**

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My name is Xiomara Flores and I am a Field Representative at 32BJ SEIU and the Director of the Capital Area District. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of PR 22-448, Sense of the Council in Support of Legislative Action to Protect Dreamers Resolution 2017 and PR 22-525, Sense of the Council in Support of Legislative Action to Protect Temporary Protected Status Resolution 2017.

32BJ represents over 163,000 men and women in 11 East Coast states, as well as here Washington, D.C.. We have over 18,000 members in the Capital Area District. Our members support their families in jobs that form the backbone of our communities as cleaners, janitors, and security officers. We hail from 64 different countries and speak 28 different languages. We represent a microcosm of immigrants as well as families with long histories in the U.S. and we all share the American Dream--a commitment to making life better for working families and a fundamental respect for the dignity of all people.

On September 5<sup>th</sup>, the Trump Administration announced the end of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. DACA, which was created by executive order under President Obama, is a program that grants young people, brought to this country by their parents, the ability live and work legally, without the threat of deportation. All in all, 800,000 young people have benefited from DACA, which has allowed them earn educations and become gainfully employed. These DACA recipients, some who identify as Dreamers, have worked hard, paid taxes, and have been contributing members of our communities. The Administration has cruelly ended this program, leaving it to Congress to pass legislation to protect 800,000 hard-working young people and we must do everything in our power to encourage them to do so. That is why we support PR 22-448. Taking away the status to live and work outside the shadows for nearly a million people will create unprecedented chaos, not only for those who have DACA but for our communities at large.

We also stand strongly in support of a PR 22-525 which urges the President and Congress to act immediately to protect Temporary Protected Status (TPS). TPS was created to protect foreign nationals from countries experiencing armed conflict or natural disaster and allows recipients to live and work legally here in the US. TPS can be granted for up to 18 months, and in order to remain eligible for TPS, recipients must renew their status and undergo an accompanying criminal background check. There are about 320,000 TPS recipients living in the US and

they are stable and deeply rooted members of our communities. In fact, many TPS recipients have been here for over two decades. In the D.C. area there are about 40,000 TPS recipients from El Salvador and Honduras alone. TPS recipients have higher than average labor force participations rates, own homes and mortgages, and have US citizen children and spouses. On November 6<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will issue a decision about the future of nearly 60,000 Hondurans and Nicaraguans. Shortly after, on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, DHS will issue an announcement on the future of 50,000 Haitians and on January 8<sup>th</sup> for nearly 200,000 Salvadorians. Signaling from the Administration has not been positive and communities are preparing for the worst. The loss of status and the ability to work for hundreds of thousands of stable members of our communities over the next 3 months will be cruel for these communities and devastating for us all. By failing to renew TPS we will be creating thousands of undocumented people in our communities overnight who will be vulnerable to exploitation and who could be pushed into underground economies. Our District must do everything in its power to ensure that TPS is extended for all who have it.

Immigrants are integral members of our community and are woven into the very fabric of who we are as a District. Whether TPS recipients or DACA recipients, they are our family members, friends, neighbors, and fellow parishioners—they work in every industry in the district and make enormous contributions to our economy and community. Please stand with me, our members, and TPS and DACA recipients throughout the District by voting in support PR 22-448 & PR 22-525. Thank you for your time.

Testimony before the DC City Council, Committee of the Whole, on PR 22-448, Sense of the Council in Support of Legislative Action to Protect Dreamers Resolution of 2017 and PR 22-525, Sense of the Council in Support of Legislative Action to Protect Temporary Protected Status Resolution of 2017

Position: Support

**Susannah Volpe**  
**November 2, 2017**

Good Morning, Chairman Mendelson and Committee Members. My name is Susannah Volpe. I am Associate Director of Ayuda's DC immigration program. Ayuda is a nonprofit organization that works with immigrants from across the world to overcome obstacles and to thrive in the United States. Our services include legal representation, case management, and language access. I testify today in support of resolutions PR 22-448, Sense of the Council in Support of Legislative Action to Protect Dreamers Resolution of 2017 and PR 22-525, Sense of the Council in Support of Legislative Action to Protect Temporary Protected Status Resolution of 2017.

The DC metropolitan area is home to roughly 26,000 DACA recipients<sup>1</sup> and approximately 60,000 TPS recipients.<sup>2</sup> Ayuda has been providing legal services to TPS and DACA recipients since these programs began and we have helped DC residents renew their status during each subsequent renewal period. At Ayuda, we have screened and represented over 300 initial or renewal DACA applications, and more than 3,000 initial or renewal TPS applications for clients in the DC metropolitan area. In the last five years, Ayuda represented 289 clients in applying for or renewing their applications for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for nationals from El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Somalia. Ayuda has represented 246 clients from over 20 countries in applying for initial or renewal DACA applications. In addition, we have pursued additional forms of immigration relief for those individuals who were eligible for another, more permanent form of immigration relief.

In the months ahead, President Trump will consider whether to renew Temporary Protected Status to benefit Haitian, Salvadoran, Honduran, and Nicaraguan nationals. We urge the administration to review both the origins of this relief and the effects of termination and renew TPS for nationals of these four countries.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitians was prompted by a 7.0-magnitude earthquake on January 12, 2010, and was continued after Hurricane Matthew on October 4, 2016, and disastrous heavy rains in late April 2017. According to the International Red Cross, the 2010 earthquake affected upwards of three million people—one-third of Haiti's population, and destroyed most of

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services, Number of Form I-821D, Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, by Fiscal Year, Quarter, Intake, Biometrics and Case Status Fiscal Year 2012-2017 (March 31, 2017), available at: [https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Resources/Reports%20and%20Studies/Immigration%20Forms%20Data/All%20Form%20Types/DACA/daca\\_performancedata\\_fy2017\\_qtr2.pdf](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Resources/Reports%20and%20Studies/Immigration%20Forms%20Data/All%20Form%20Types/DACA/daca_performancedata_fy2017_qtr2.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Robert Warren & Donald Kerwin, Center for Migration Studies, A Statistical and Demographic Profile of the US Temporary Protected Status Populations from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti, 5 J. on Migration and Human Sec. 577 (2017), available at: <http://cmsny.org/publications/jmhs-tps-elsalvador-honduras-haiti/>.

the nation's capital. The subsequent natural disasters exacerbated the destruction in Haiti and further slowed relief efforts.<sup>3</sup>

Much like in Haiti, two massive 7.7 and 6.6 magnitude earthquakes hit El Salvador respectively on January 13 and February 13 of the year 2001. In the first earthquake, nearly a thousand people were killed and over 100,000 homes destroyed. The following month, another earthquake caused over 300 deaths and another 60,000 homes were destroyed. In all, approximately 1.5 million people were affected by these earthquakes, in a country with a population of just under 6 million people at the time. The country suffered significant damage to infrastructure, and continues to this day to struggle to rebuild as its resources are drained in combatting organized crime and additional natural disasters.<sup>4</sup>

In October 1998, Hurricane Mitch made landfall in Honduras and Nicaragua, and displaced approximately 1.1 million Hondurans, and affected nearly 868,000 Nicaraguans. The storm destroyed approximately 70 percent of Honduran infrastructure, and caused extensive damage to housing, medical and educational facilities, transportation networks, water supply and sanitation facilities in Nicaragua as well. Again, Honduras and Nicaragua continue to struggle to rebuild infrastructure as the countries experience new damage from severe rains, earthquakes, landslides, flooding, and heavy winds.<sup>5</sup>

Haiti, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua continue to recover from these massive natural disasters and rely on remittances from family members living lawfully in the United States to help rebuild. Discontinuing TPS for these nations would mean that over 300,000 people would lose lawful status, rendering them ineligible to work lawfully in the United States. Conservative estimates hold that approximately 46,000 Haitian, 195,000 Salvadoran, 57,000 Honduran, and 2,550 Nicaraguan TPS beneficiaries live in the United States. Approximately 22% of Honduran, Salvadoran and Haitian TPS holders arrived in the US when they were under the age of 16.<sup>6</sup> At least 30% of TPS holders from these same countries are homeowners, paying mortgages in the United States, and this does not include those who may live in homes that are fully paid for.<sup>7</sup> There are more than 273,000 US citizen children whose parents are TPS holder from El Salvador, Haiti and Honduras.<sup>8</sup>

Lest we lose track of the people that these numbers represent, I want to tell the story of Edgar, a client that Ayuda represents, who is a DC resident and TPS recipient from El Salvador.<sup>9</sup> Edgar has lived in the U.S. for seventeen years, having arrived in the US seeking a better life and unable to return due to the destruction that occurred in El Salvador while he was in the United States. Edgar made the decision to remain in the US and apply for TPS when the program first began in 2001. Edgar now works for a package delivery service and is paying for his home here in the District. He is married and the father of four daughters, one of whom is a DACA recipient. He credits TPS

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3 See *gen.* 82 FR 23830, Haiti <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/05/24/2017-10749/extension-of-the-designation-of-haiti-for-temporary-protected-status>.

4 See *gen.* 81 FR 44645, El Salvador <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-07-08/html/2016-15802.htm>.

5 See *gen.* 81 FR 30331, Honduras <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-05-16/html/2016-11306.htm>; 81 FR 30325, Nicaragua <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-05-16/html/2016-11305.htm>.

6 Warren & Kerwin, A Statistical and Demographic Profile of the US Temporary Protected Status Populations from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti.

7 *Id.*

8 *Id.*

9 The client's name has been changed to protect privacy.

with allowing him to work and support his family. In preparation for our testimony today, he told us that “without TPS I would not have a job and without a job, I would be out on the streets.”

There is also another side to this story. Many holders of TPS or DACA continue to rely on fraudulent immigration providers, known as notarios, to assist them in their applications. Ayuda’s Project END (which stands for ‘Eradicating Notario Deceit’) is currently assisting two former DACA recipients Sonia and Pablo,<sup>10</sup> who paid non-attorney notarios to file their renewal applications, but their applications were never properly filed. In Sonia’s case, the USCIS sent the non-attorney notario a request for more evidence that was ignored, prompting USCIS to deny her DACA application. Sonia was thus out of status on the date that President Trump effectively ended the DACA program and was not eligible to regain lawful DACA status to which she would have been entitled. Sonia was forced to decline the scholarship she had been awarded to attend college.

Pablo’s case is unfortunately similar, as he also went to a non-attorney notario and was assured his application would be properly filed. When several months later, he called USCIS to check the status of the application, he found that no application had ever been filed. He went to the notarios business place and found that the business had disappeared and his money and documents were gone. Pablo was deprived of the opportunity to apply for DACA and has no alternate path to legal status in the United States.

Ayuda is working to address both the immigration and civil remedies for these and other victims of immigration services fraud. We are keenly aware of the need for increased screenings and ongoing legal representation for TPS and DACA recipients by reputable attorneys and accredited representatives. To provide the legal representation this community needs, we urge the DC Council to pass and fully fund the Immigrant Justice Legal Services grant, Bill 22-0080 "Access to Justice for Immigrants Amendment Act of 2017"

Thank you to all Councilmembers for co-introducing these two important resolutions. Your commitment to passing these resolutions will set an important precedent for others to follow.

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<sup>10</sup> Names changed to protect client privacy.



# LA CLÍNICA DEL PUEBLO

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## Committee of The Whole

Sense of the Council in Support of Legislative Action to Protect Dreamers Resolution of 2017,  
**PR 22-448**

Sense of the Council in Support of Legislative Action to Protect Temporary Protected Status  
Resolution of 2017, **PR 22-525**

November 2, 2017

Alicia Wilson  
La Clínica del Pueblo

Good afternoon. My name is Alicia Wilson, and I am the Executive Director of La Clínica del Pueblo. La Clínica is a community based, federally qualified health center located in Columbia Heights. We serve primarily low-income, Latino immigrants, providing comprehensive health, mental health, and substance abuse services; community health promotion; medical interpretation, and the spectrum of HIV prevention and care. We have a strong focus on services for the Latino LGBTQ community, survivors of violence, and families separated by migration, among others. For our patients and clients, the experience of being an immigrant has a profound impact on their wellbeing, mental health, and health outcomes.

Thank you to all Councilmembers for co-introducing this important resolution. We are testifying in support of PR22-448 and PR22-525. These resolutions are another step in the city's efforts to ensure that it is a welcoming and diverse city, one that stands by all of its residents, in the face of extraordinary threats from anti-immigrant Federal policies.

While La Clínica does not collect immigration data from the people we serve, we are aware that our patients and clients, the majority of whom are immigrants from El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala, match many of the demographics of the city's Latino population. Many of our patients count on TPS status and DACA to enable them to work and engage with their communities with the stability that comes from having a social security number. In addition to economic benefits, this status provides significant health access benefits as well, as many employers now offer health insurance for their employees, and people with TPS can purchase insurance through the ACA health insurance exchange, DC HealthLink.

At La Clínica we believe health care is a human right and that all immigrants should be respected as productive human beings. We believe that illegalization and criminalization of immigrant community is detrimental to the health of the whole community.

Our work over the past 35 years has shown a direct link between immigration status and health. Most recently, in collaboration with several local academic researchers, we have been able to finally demonstrate how fear of deportation is linked to HIV risk behavior and staying with an

Our mission is to build a healthy Latino community through culturally appropriate health services, focusing on those most in need.

Nuestra misión es construir una comunidad Latina saludable por medio de servicios culturalmente apropiados, enfocándonos en los más necesitados.

abusive partner. And we are not the only voice affirming that health care should be a human right. Researchers from the Division of General Internal Medicine from Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School have published a paper discussing the health consequences of DACA, and the findings show that “Economic opportunities and protection from deportation for undocumented immigrants, as offered by DACA, could confer large mental health benefits to such individuals. Health consequences should be considered by researchers and policy makers in evaluations of the broader welfare effects of immigration policy.” In our mental health services, we see daily how an adjustment of immigration status can significantly improve the stability of families and reduce anxiety and stress. For our patients, immigration is the primary social determinant of their health, impacting all aspects of their wellbeing.

In a 2016 briefing paper we co-authored with the Consumer Health Foundation, they explain:

*“Studies consistently show that children of immigrant parents are more likely to lack health insurance than children with U.S.-born parents and are less likely to be taken to the doctor. Studies also show that a parent’s undocumented status is associated with lower levels of cognitive development and educational progress for the child. The most damaging effects seem to stem from parental detention or removal, which impacts the economic and psychological well-being of the child. The psychological distress experienced by parents who are undocumented is also associated with negative developmental effects for their children. Nearly 50 percent of parents who are undocumented reported that their child had been anxious, and almost 75 percent reported that a child had shown symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder resulting from the threat of detention and deportation.”*

In Washington, DC, some of the health impacts of being undocumented are mitigated by the DC Healthcare Alliance program, which serves as a model for the nation in building an inclusive healthcare system for the city. This program, however, is not a full insurance product and does not meet all of the healthcare needs, such as behavioral health care coverage.

As a sanctuary city, we have the responsibility to engage in permanent and meaningful mechanisms for safeguarding the rights of those most vulnerable in our communities. Beyond the declaration of sanctuary, the policies and practices of the city are what must truly distinguish Washington, DC as a place of full inclusion for the immigrant community. As I urge you to pass these two resolutions, I also urge you to pass additional pending legislation to show that the city’s actions back up its declarations:

- Pass bill 22-80, “Access to Justice for Immigrants.” There is a great and growing need for immigration legal services in the District because immigrants are being assaulted on a daily basis by reactionary and untested immigration policies.
- Pass bill 22-0075: “Language Access for Education Amendment Act of 2017,” giving the Office on Human Rights more enforcement tools.
- Pass bill 22-231: “DC Healthcare Alliance Re-Enrollment Reform Amendment of 2017,” which reduces the discriminatory barriers that Alliance enrollees face in maintaining their health coverage.

Finally, as an employer of over 115 talented, mission-driven staff, I must also say that our workforce is under threat by the possible repeal of TPS and the loss of DACA. Several of our highly-skilled, bilingual, committed employees would lose their employment status, and our ability to serve the community would suffer as a result. I appreciate the city council's attention to this critical issue and urge your continued awareness of grave local impact of national anti-immigrant policies. Your actions to support all residents of the city are essential at this time.

Testimony Presented to the **Committee of the Whole**

**Chairman Phil Mendelson**

On **PR 22-448**, Sense of the Council in Support of Legislative Action to Protect Dreamers Resolution of 2017, and **PR 22-525**, of the Council in Support of Legislative Action to Protect Temporary Protected Status Resolution of 2017.

By Lori Kaplan, President and CEO, Latin American Youth Center

November 2, 2017

Good afternoon Chairman Mendelson, Council Members, members of your staff, and fellow community leaders. My name is Lori Kaplan and I am President and CEO of the Latin American Youth Center, known as LAYC. I have served in this role since 1987 and have worked at LAYC since 1979. LAYC supports the hopes and dreams of over 4000 Latino, African American, and multicultural youth annually in the District of Columbia (DC) and Maryland. Our rich history of service to the Latino and African American community, as well as the immigrant community, is tied directly to our support for the Council's resolutions in support of legislative action to protect Dreamers and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders.

We would like to thank the Chairman and all Councilmembers for co-introducing these critical resolutions calling on Congress to take legislative action to protect Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, and to extend and protect the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) program. These resolutions reaffirm DC's commitment as a Sanctuary city. They send a clear message to Congress that we demand they prioritize the protection some of the most vulnerable residents in our community through legislative action that is beyond Council's jurisdiction. However, these resolutions are only one of many steps Council must take towards seeking safety, justice, full-inclusion, and protection for DC's immigrant community, whether documented, undocumented, or temporarily protected.

Over the past 10 months, the racism and bigotry present in the current administration's policies and practices has left members our community living in constant fear for what will come next. The cancellation of the DACA program and the threat of cancelling the TPS program directly impacts the life and well-being of our youth, whether they or a family member is a direct beneficiary. DACA and TPS would shatter the lives and dreams of more than 800,000 immigrant youth across the U.S. and more than 300,000 TPS holders.

DACA-beneficiary dreamers and TPS holders are human beings, not bargaining chips, who deserve dignity and respect. They are our neighbors, our children's friends, our coworkers, employees, students, and local community leaders. There is strong bipartisan consensus that DACA and TPS-holders should not be deported. While Council has no power over federal

immigration law, as local government leaders you have the power to protect all District residents and remove legislative barriers that disproportionately impact our immigrant youth and their families.

Council must act now, without hesitation or further delay, to approve and fund pending District legislative proposals to protect all residents. Not only are immigrants, documented or not, targeted under the new administration's proposed policies, but so are their U.S. citizen and legal permanent resident (LPR) parents, children, siblings, and relatives.

We look to the Council for their full support and immediate action to fully fund the following "slate" of proposed policy changes impacting our immigrant communities:

- **Pass Bill 22-80, Access to Justice for Immigrants.** There is a tremendous and growing need for immigration legal services in the District. Given the real possibility that Temporary Protection Status (TPS) for Salvadorans, Hondurans, and Nicaraguans could end, this creates a massive and unprecedented need for immigration legal services, as it would affect over 35,000 current beneficiaries in the DMV. With the DACA program cancelled and uncertainly over the protections Congress will afford Dreamers, there are close to 1,000 youth people in DC that have applied for DACA and will need immediate immigration legal assistance, according the American Immigration Council.
- **Pass Bill 22-0075, 2015 Language Access for Education Amendment Act.** Council must pass this bill and ensure strong enforcement of the Act's provisions to provide Non-English Proficient, Limited English Proficient parents, students, and community members with critical resources. This bill has been delayed and postponed for over two years in the Council, and our students and their families deserve improved protections to language access at any and all government funded agencies, but in particular at our public schools. All DC's children, youth, and their parents and guardians, deserve to engage in quality educational opportunities in their language of preference.
- **Pass the One License for One DC Amendment Act of 2017.** DC cannot continue to support a provision that requiring all licenses and non-driver ID cards issued to undocumented immigrants to be marked differently than those issued to everyone else. This marker makes our undocumented neighbors easy targets for federal immigration and customs enforcement (ICE) officers known to be operating in the DMV. Undocumented immigrants with DC-issued IDs are more vulnerable and exposed the moment they step beyond the District's borders into Virginia or Maryland. Driving safely with a license or proper photo identification should come at the risk of immediate ICE detention for exposing one's immigration status.

- **Pass the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2017.** Council must ask to expand the right to vote to legal permanent residents in the District. Despite not yet being U.S. citizens, these residents are well on their path to citizenship. What better way to signal to the immigrant community that their civic engagement matters than to expand the right to vote in our local municipal elections. They too are impacted by legislative proposal in the District should have the opportunity to cast their vote in how Council and local government are held accountable. This bill will allow legal permanent residents to legally participate in our elections for the Mayor, Council, State Board of Education, ANC's and the Attorney General.

We can no longer wait for the right time to act on these measures. We ask our government leaders to stand boldly with LAYC's youth, our immigrant community and all other marginalized communities vulnerable to the administration's threats and actions.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify today.



*Fighting for equal justice for all immigrants  
at risk of detention and deportation*

[www.caircoalition.org](http://www.caircoalition.org)

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Good morning Council Members,

My name is Kathy Doan and I am the Executive Director of the Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition.

CAIR Coalition works to insure equal access to justice for men, women and children at risk of detention and deportation in DC, Maryland and Virginia. Our services include legal representation, educational outreach, impact and advocacy work, and the training of attorneys who defend immigrants in the immigration and criminal justice arenas.

We are the only legal service provider in the Washington metropolitan area with a legal service program dedicated specifically to assisting detained immigrant men, women and children in the Washington area. In the last year, we served over 4000 immigrants with service ranging from brief counsel and advice to full representation before the immigration court.

There are currently 11 detention facilities holding an average daily population of 1200 detained men, women and unaccompanied immigrant children in Virginia and Maryland. Any DC resident who is detained by ICE is generally held at a detention center in Farmville, VA, about 3.5 hours south of the City.

In the first nine months of the current administration, immigration detentions are up 40%. Individuals who would not have been a priority under the Obama administration are now being routinely detained and deported.

These include individuals who were given grants of deferred action, most often because they were primary care givers with either no criminal offenses or very low level convictions. Year after year they would dutifully report to their local ICE office to check in, and year after year they would be allowed to return home to their spouses and children. Not this year. This year, many of them were not allowed to go home. Instead, they were detained and deported, leaving devastated families and communities in their wake.

Like TPS and DACA recipients, immigrants with grants of deferred action were playing by the rules and ironically, tragically, it was their very willingness to play by the rules that ultimately led to their detention, and in many cases, deportation.

The government's decision to end DACA was cruel beyond measure. Not only is it a humanitarian disaster as young people who played by the rules now stand to lose everything they worked so hard to achieve, but the economic repercussions will reverberate throughout the DMV and beyond.

A 2017 survey, conducted by the Center for American Progress, the National Immigration Law Center, immigrant youth organization United We Dream, and the University of California, San Diego, finds that immigrant youth embody the entrepreneurial spirit, with DACA recipients “outpacing the general population in terms of business creation.” DACA recipients are deeply engrained in our nation, “buying cars, purchasing their first homes,” and boosting our economy by “creating new businesses.” The survey’s results also show that at least 72 percent of the top 25 Fortune 500 companies employ DACA recipients.”

Similarly, ending TPS status for those nationals that currently enjoy its protection would be both a humanitarian and an economic disaster, for individual immigrants, as well as the nation as a whole.

According to an Immigrant Legal Resource Center report, deporting all Salvadoran, Honduran, and Haitian TPS holders would cost taxpayers \$3.1 billion dollars. It would result in a \$6.9 billion reduction to Social Security and Medicare contributions over a decade. It would lead to a \$45.2 billion reduction in GDP over a decade. The wholesale lay-off of the entire employed TPS population from these three countries would result in \$967 million of turnover costs, e.g. costs employers incur when an employee leaves a position. The loss in GDP and turnover costs would be felt most acutely in the locations where Salvadorans, Hondurans, and Haitians are primarily located, including major metropolitan areas in Florida, New York, California, Texas, and the DMV.

Ending DACA and TPS will not only cause great emotional and economic harm to immigrants, their families and the wider communities of which they are an integral part, it will also put many more individuals at risk of detention and deportation. ICE will know exactly where TPS and DACA holders live and the events of recent months suggest that they will show no mercy in going after them once they have been stripped of their legal status.

Against this background of stepped up enforcement and reduced discretion, the “Sense of the Council” resolutions in support of Legislative Action to Protect Dreamers and TPS holders takes on added urgency.

I encourage the Council to expeditiously approve both these measures.

But I also ask that the Council not stop there. There is another piece of pending legislation that was the subject of hearings earlier this year, which also needs to be expeditiously approved and funded.

That is the Access to Justice for Immigrants Act of 2017.

As a Sanctuary City, we need to be doing everything we possibility can to safeguard our immigrant neighbors in today’s hostile and increasingly anti-immigrant climate.

Several weeks ago, ICE put the city on notice that it was being specifically targeted for its pro-immigrant stance and we can assume that the raid in September that resulted in the detention of nearly a dozen DC residents will not be the last such action against our immigrant neighbors.

Since the hearings on the Access to Justice for Immigrants Act were held, two other local jurisdictions –Prince George’s County and Baltimore City- have joined a nationwide collaborative of local jurisdictions called the “SAFE Cities Network. Each of the jurisdictions in the network has pledged at least \$100,000 for an immigrant defense fund that is then matched by private funders.

It’s a relatively modest sum, but it’s a start. And as important as the additional funding is, the message of solidarity that it sends to the immigrant communities in Baltimore and PG County is equally important.

I encourage the DC Council to send a similar message of solidarity and support to our immigrant community by approving and funding the Access to Justice for Immigrants Act as soon as possible.

Thank you,

Kathryn M. Doan, Esq.  
Executive Director

[kathy.doan@caircoalition.org](mailto:kathy.doan@caircoalition.org)

202-899-8615

**Testimony before the DC City Council, Committee of the Whole, on PR22-525, Sense of the Council in Support of Legislative Action to Protect Temporary Protected Status Resolution of 2017**

**Position: Support**

Testimony of Roberto Solorzano, TPS Recipient

Good Morning Chairman Mendleson and Committee Members. My name is Roberto Solorzano and I am a TPS recipient and Washington, DC resident.

I left my home country of Nicaragua in 1984 because of the great hardship that I faced there. My parents, siblings, and I lived in the capital city of Managua where there was a lot of gang violence, government and police corruption, and crime. I am gay and during that time, that was not something that was accepted by the government nor the gangs. I faced persecution by both gang members and members of the local police force. Because of my homosexuality, I could not find a job and I lived in constant fear and persecution. There was no life for me there so I decided to come to the United States.

I entered the United States through Brownsville, Texas in 1984. I lived in Brownsville for three years until I was taken into custody by immigration, where I was kept for two months before I was able to pay the bond to be freed. After this, I moved to Miami, Florida and lived there for six months. While there, I tried to apply for legal status through a business that took \$6,000 from me, but did not help me obtain legal status. After this bad experience, I moved to the Washington, D.C. area where I have lived for the past 29 years. Until 2000, I worked at many different places including a hospital and the World Bank cafeteria, on a temporary work permit that expired in 1999.

For over a decade, I have maintained my TPS status with assistance from Ayuda. In 2001, I started the job that I still have now, working at the clothing store within the Department of Veteran Affairs. This job is the best thing that has ever happened to me and I am so grateful to have the opportunity to work there. Working for the Federal Government is something that most people do not have the chance to do and I feel lucky to have had this opportunity. I feel very comfortable in the workplace and take special pride in serving the customers with the best service and always doing whatever my boss asks of me.

I turned 71 years old this year and in recent years I have had some health problems. However, I am very grateful that I have been able to receive Medicaid benefits that have allowed me to get the help for my heart condition that is required to allow me to keep working and providing for myself.

When I started hearing the news reports about the Trump Administration's actions concerning changes in benefits such as TPS and DACA, I started to panic because I realized that everything that I had worked so hard for and the life that I had built for myself over the past 30 years was in danger. The work that I have been able to get because of TPS has given me an opportunity that I have never had before to get ahead and to build a happy life for myself. I consider my status

under TPS a privilege and my life has improved a million times because of it. I ask you to please consider the value that the TPS program has for me and for others like me who have spent the majority of our lives here and have worked hard to contribute to this country.

At my age and after such a long time, it would be disastrous for me to be forced to return to Nicaragua where I have hardly any family and no connections or prospects for work. My situation is also not unique. There are many families with TPS that have put down roots in the United States and their lives would be forever disrupted by the end of this program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this resolution today.

TESTIMONY OF ALLISON R. KOKKOROS, CEO,  
CARLOS ROSARIO INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

SENSE OF THE COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO PROTECT DREAMERS  
RESOLUTION OF 2017 (PR22-448) AND  
SENSE OF THE COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO PROTECT TEMPORARY  
PROTECTED STATUS RESOLUTION OF 2017 (PR22-525) AND

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PUBLIC HEARING  
CHAIRMAN PHIL MENDELSON  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2017

Good Morning Chairman Mendelson and City Councilmembers,

My name is Allison Kokkoros and I am the CEO of the Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School. I am testifying today in strong support of the resolutions introduced to protect Temporary Protected Status individuals and Dreamers.

For generations, immigrants have come to the United States and to the District of Columbia in search of a better life. At the Carlos Rosario School, our founding mission is to provide this generation of immigrants with resources that help them make that dream a reality and in turn strengthen our city. Each year we serve over 2,500 immigrant adults from more than 85 countries around the world. Students in our programs have gained the English skills necessary to advocate for themselves and their children; obtained high school diplomas; become U.S. citizens; participated in the democratic process by voting; obtained college degrees and workforce certifications; entered into careers; climbed career ladders; opened businesses and paid millions of dollars in taxes. I am proud to share that our school has been recognized as a Tier 1 School since the inception of the tiering system.

And yet, it has been a uniquely difficult year for the immigrant community. At the national level, hateful rhetoric and cruel policies foster fear and anxiety, separate families, and trample dreams. Ending TPS and DACA is the epitome of such inhumane and unjust actions. And

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while these policies are legislated at a national level, the damage is truly felt locally in our own communities. Our own neighbors will suffer and our local economies will be negatively impacted. Hundreds of Dreamers and TPS beneficiaries will endure the direct consequences, but all of us will be affected.

Ensuring the protection of immigrant communities from deportation is not only the right thing to do, it is also the smart thing to do. Successive waves of immigrants have built up our region and our country, making them demographically young, enriching our traditions and cultures, and contributing to our economy with innovative ideas and entrepreneurial spirit. According to Immigrant Legal Resource Center reports on the economic impact of ending TPS and DACA, deporting affected TPS holders and DACA recipients would cost taxpayers billions of dollars, and result in an estimated \$40 billion reduction to Social Security and Medicare contributions over a decade along with a \$470 billion reduction in GDP. The combined lay-offs of TPS holders and DACA holders would result in almost \$4 billion dollars in turnover costs. For the TPS portion, these losses would be felt most acutely in the locations where Salvadorans, Hondurans, and Haitians are primarily located, including our region.

So it is with conviction that I -- as a United States citizen, District resident and head of an educational institution that serves the immigrant community and the DC region-- assert that Congress must act to protect TPS and DACA holders from deportation. The resolutions proposed by the City Council urge congress to do so and, importantly, send a message of hope to the immigrant community in a time that is filled with fear and anxiety. It signals that at the local level, where sometimes it matters more, they have allies who are willing to fight to make this city a place where everyone can thrive.

I feel fortunate to call the District home, grateful that we are a Sanctuary city and honored to be among others testifying in favor of these resolutions and fighting for the basic

dignity and human rights of all people. We are far from achieving the dream of comprehensive immigration reform, but we must fight to keep whatever protections are currently in place for the immigrant community. I want to thank all council members for addressing this issue through these resolutions which will stand as a symbol of the values of the people of the District of Columbia, that we will not turn our backs on our immigrant neighbors. I both commend the city council for your support so far and urge you to continue to support the immigrant community in the battles to come, for the fight for dignity may be long and our values as a people are at stake.

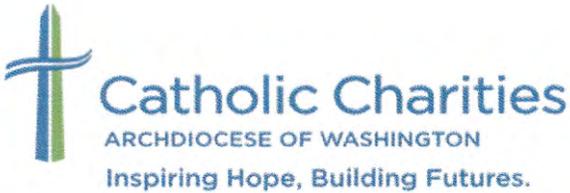
**Rev. Sharon Stanley-Rea, 3040 Thayer Street NE, Washington, D.C.—In Support of PR22-525**

I am Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Director of Refugee & Immigration Ministries, and a D.C. Resident. For me as a national pastor working with my denomination, lives of individuals and communities affected by threats to Temporary Protected Status come from all around the country. They include ones like **Violette's in NY**, on her church's worship team, working as a health care provider, who knows "these are not the right conditions for return to Haiti, and without us here working, families will have even more danger and insecurity." Those I meet include a **Liberian** who served as the competent church administrator at our congregation in Beltsville, Md.—who had to leave the church and area when TPS was ended for Liberians just months ago. She now lives in daily fear as she endeavors to continue to find a way to earn money for remittances. It includes a **Salvadoran in Hyattsville**—who, with her husband, has TPS, and whose dedication has led her to fast for days and walk over 100 miles in actions to show her support for fixing US immigration laws to stop criminalizing immigrants.

Already in Sept., over **700 faith leaders nationally have signed** a letter urging extension of TPS for all 10 remaining populations—from **El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Nepal, Nicaragua, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria, and Yemen**. Two weeks ago, our city here in **DC passed a resolution** in support of extension of status for TPS holders—recognizing we have the highest Central American populations of TPS holders in our region. Today, I present to you **nearly 200 signatures from the DC, Maryland, Northern VA. region** gathered through our area Sanctuary DMV Congregations Network of over 70 congregations in support of TPS for Haitians, Salvadorans, Hondurans, Nicaraguans, and all other populations—**because we believe** our faith that calls us to follow the prophet Isaiah's call to bring water to the thirsty" and Yahweh's call in Exodus to "not oppress a stranger" and Jesus' words that "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" —and so we should continue to do so.

**We will not stop our faith commitment** to Temporary Protected Status. We won't stop because **we are inspired by** affected communities. While few in our congregations may have known before that "TPS" meant Temporary Protected Status, **now they are learning, building strategies concerning, and YEARNING to protect this program of protection from extermination**—because we know that TPS UPHOLDS FAMILY STABILITY (as there are over 273,000 US born children of TPS recipient parents!). We know that TPS IS AN INVESTMENT IN HUMANITARIAN COMMUNITY BUILDING, it STRENGTHENS NATIONAL SECURITY, it SUPPORTS BOTH THE US AND HOME COUNTRIES ECONOMICALLY, and it SAVES LIVES BY NOT SENDING BACK INTO DANGEROUS CONDITIONS.

And so, as your DC residents in faith communities, we have been speaking in our pulpits, leading workshops, going on the radio, holding multiple Press Conferences, having conversations with neighbors, and this week meeting with DHS staffers to share the voices of the faithful in our city in support of TPS. Please join us by passing today's DC Resolution PR22-525 to renew and extend TPS to all populations. Without doing so, our city's economy, families, and very spirit will suffer as tens of thousands will no longer be able to support both THIS country, and their own homelands through remittances, as well.



Good morning. Thank you Council Chairman Phil Mendelson and all council-members for co-introducing these important resolutions: Proposed resolution 22-448 “Sense of the Council in Support of Legislative Action to Protect Dreamers Resolution of 2017” and proposed resolution 22-525 “Sense of the Council in Support of Legislative Action to Protect Temporary Protected Status Resolution of 2017.”

My name is Estefania Chavez Higgins and I am a staff attorney with Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services.

Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services has been serving the DC metro area for over 30 years. We provide direct immigration legal representation and offer referrals for pro bono legal representation. Our services are open to all of those in need, regardless of age, race, nationality, sex, sexual orientation, background, belief, or circumstance. Immigration Legal Services advances Catholic Charities’ mission by addressing the region’s evolving legal needs through high quality, reduced-cost and pro bono legal assistance and education. At our five office locations, foreign-born individuals and their families receive direct legal advice and representation in a wide range of immigration legal services including: naturalization and citizenship, asylum, family based immigrant petitions, relief from removal in Immigration Court, VAWA self-petitions for survivors of domestic violence, U and T visas for victims of crime and trafficking, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) for unaccompanied minors, DACA, Temporary Protected Status, and consular processing. At Catholic Charities, we have 14 immigration attorneys and Board of Immigration Appeals Accredited Legal Representatives, all of whom serve DC residents, and 6 of whom work in our 2 Washington DC offices.

We are testifying in support of PR22-448 and PR22-525 because ending DACA and TPS would shatter the lives and dreams of more than 800,000 immigrant youth and more than 300,000 TPS holders.

At Catholic Charities, we serve a great number of the TPS-holders in the DMV area. Many of our TPS clients have been in the United States for at least the past 20 years or more. The United States is the country they call home. Many came to the United States at a young age and have spent a significant portion of their life

here. Salvadoran and Honduran TPS holders have, on average, spent at least a third of their lives on TPS. As a result of this long-term status they have become active and contributing members of their communities and the nation as a whole. Many TPS beneficiaries have families in the United States. These families include approximately 273,000 native-born U.S.-citizen children.

One TPS holder we have assisted is Eduardo from Central America. He is a DC resident. Our program assisted him in filing for TPS, and this benefit allows him to work legally in the U.S. and support his family. Eduardo is employed, and supports a family, which includes 6 U.S. Citizen children. If TPS ends, he will be subject to removal from the United States, and will be separated from his family.

Another TPS holder is Andre, a Haitian Professional who arrived in the U.S. just after the earthquake with his U.S. citizen daughter. While his daughter had status in the U.S., Andre was only granted entry for a temporary period of time. He was not initially eligible for TPS because he came after the cutoff date. But, later, given the devastation in Haiti, and ongoing instability in the country, the U.S. government re-designated Haiti and extended the cutoff date by which a person could enter the U.S. At that point, Andre applied for, and was granted TPS. He was able to get a work permit which enabled him to work and support his child while his country continued to recover from the effects of the earthquake.

TPS-holders make important contributions to the economy as a whole given they are active members of the labor force. According to the report titled “Economic Contributions by Salvadorians, Hondurans and Haitian TPS Holders” published in April 2017 by the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (“ILRC”) deporting all Salvadoran, Honduran, and Haitian TPS holders would cost taxpayers \$3.1 billion dollars. It would result in a \$6.9 billion reduction to Social Security and Medicare contributions over a decade. It would lead to a \$45.2 billion reduction in GDP over a decade. The wholesale lay-off of the entire employed TPS population from these three countries would result in \$967 million of turnover costs. The loss in GDP and turnover costs would be felt most acutely in the locations where Salvadorans, Hondurans, and Haitians are primarily located, including major metropolitan areas such as Florida, New York, California, Texas, Maryland, and Virginia. Construction Companies in the DMV area have estimated that they would lose approximately 20% of their skilled workforce if TPS ends.

There is strong bipartisan consensus that DACA and TPS-holders should not be deported. Many Congressional Representatives and Senators have written letters of support to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) demanding that TPS be

continued. TPS holders have undergone multiple government background checks; —the overwhelming majority are employed; they pay taxes; and have demonstrated a commitment to their local communities through homeownership and raising children in the United States.

Given the long-standing and extensive ties that current TPS holders have in the United States, ending the TPS designation without a plan in place to maintain their connections and contributions would have devastating consequences. Not only would the more than 300,000 individuals suffer, but countless families, industries, and communities overall would be at risk of losing valued members of our society. For all the above-mentioned reasons, Catholic Charities testifies in support of both resolutions 22-448 and 22-525 to protect Dreamers and Temporary Protected Status.

## DC City Council Testimony

Prepared by Denise Woods, MS MA - Member of All Souls Sanctuary Leadership

I am Denise Woods and last month I travelled to AZ and Mexico as part of a Unitarian sponsored pilgrimage I took with Border links to better understand immigration on the border. I did this as part of All Souls Unitarian Sanctuary Leadership and as a human. I would like to share a tiny fraction of this recent trip to the belly of the beast of immigration. We met with approximately 12 non profits who support migration justice and while no testimony could ever convey their courage or tenacity I am going to share a few experiences to help draw a mural of my own experiences.

Ironically, one of the most life defining moments was when we walked in the desert where 7,000 people - who were pushed across borders by violence and disruption - perished. I saw the backpacks and water bottles they left behind in their final moment when they knew this might be their last breath. I did not see their face but I knew their hopes - food, family, escape or a job. Yet it was too much to ask.

As I stared at the last remnants of their lives strewn on the sands the unfairness of life cascaded upon me. I found out that they travel at night with no light , consequently bouncing back and forth as though playing an evil ping pong game between cacti with needles long and sharp. Blisters on their feet literally could mean a death sentence.

The government understanding just how "dangerous" hungry people are, have assigned 50 border patrol agents per mile on land. This includes helicopters ordered to fly above the heads of travelers as a way to scatter and separate them into confusion, subsequently leading to their capture or separation from the cartel led group they began their trek with. With such a cruel tactic conducted by the United States government, I began to contemplate how terror is justified for those categorized as undocumented and unlucky.

One of those woman was Mary Cruz who was walking with a cartel led group who fell down a unexpected precipice and broke her ankle and was kicked out of her because she was walking too slow. Her shoes made of discarded tire were unwieldy and she walked on for 1, 2,3,4,5,6,7, days till she tripped and broke her other ankle. What could she do? What would you do? She continued. She found a piece of carpet to kneel on and moved it one knee at a time. Then one day she heard a voice, "we are samaritans and we are your friends - we come bringing water". The Samaritans - a humanitarian group which leaves food and water in the desert - had found her and saved her. How far would you walk to find food for your family?

The next day after the desert walk we went to court where I witnessed the banality of evil; men, women were shuffled into court, and asked the same rote questions. Questions that always lead to the sum of "guilty". After herding these travelers to a sentencing of immediate deportation or stints of time in prison before the 'gift' of a ticket back to a place they are afraid of calling home- these 75 men and women were herded back into the custody of law enforcement without even an

opportunity to explain their reasoning for risking their lives in a way that is considered illegal but in reality makes sense for survival. President Trump has fostered Operation Streamline throughout the United States, apprehending up to 1,000 travelers a day alone in Tucson. The criminalization of the migrant is a daily terrorizing occurrence with mandatory road blocks set up through out AZ to check for papers. I went through one and my heart pounded as I had to stop for dogs and guns and I am a citizen.. It was heartbreaking to see how small the travelers looked. Like children even; presumably due to malnutrition, the travelers wore tattered clothes from their desert sojourn, and others were visibly burnt by the heat of the sun.

As I looked at their faces in court I saw the faces of people who I have known and loved through out my life but mostly a man named Angel who rescued my daughter maya and I when we could not leave the trailer home we were staying in with a family in an indigenous village in Costa Rica due to rains for 40 days and 40 nights. Angel took a chain saw and found us a way out. And as I stared at their familiar black hair and brown skin all I wanted was a chain saw and to be their angel. They were sentenced "guilty" of attempting to finding a better life or to see child they had been separated from or to escape a war at their front door. The men and women In the court were broken open but not defeated which could be seen in their fist bumps and camaraderie - even as they dreams unraveled at their feet.

One of our final trips was to prison where we met those whose now lived behind bars instead of the dream of a home that had pushed them into the desert. We chatted with Raul Antonio who was running from gangs from El Salvador who would make him pay to sleep on the streets just to stay alive. He had lived 27 years in the US and only wanted to get back to his life including two daughters. He surprised me since he only wanted to joke with us and hoped that his hard work, Christian faith and hopes were enough to give him justice even though he had no lawyer and no money in his pocket. It surprised me that he was not shriveled or shorn but had a twinkle in his eyes as we tried for an hour of conversation and community. We gave nothing more than conversation, knowing that any promises we gave would be false. There was nothing I could give Raul. I could not offer him the lie of freedom or even the truth of deportation. In that moment - I felt bankrupt of anything positive.

We were asked what will we do when we get back home from this metamorphosing experience; what will we do to calm this beast and I knew I needed all my verbs possible to do my part. They told us the best thing to do is to determine our calling, define our capacity and then make commitments.

The question another way: how far will you go to defeat evil and what can you to take a stand to be an angel. We can't do it all - but we can dig our heels in and not let evil win without a fight. Pick what dreams move your feet forward and do it quickly because all that evil needs to win is for good people to do nothing and I have seen evil and it is not

only in the deserts and court rooms. To that end , I desperately urge the city council to be the Angel with the chain saw for the TPS and DACA people who are living here as part of their own response. To do good for those whose lives depend on it.  
Thank you.

Denise Woods, MS MA  
All Souls Unitarian Sanctuary Leadership

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE : PR  
22-525, The Sense of the Council in Support of Legislative Action to Protect Temporary  
Protected Status Resolution of 2017**

**GOOD MORNING CHAIRMAN MENDELSON AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

My name is Lode Rosa Jorge and I am here in my capacity as an immigration attorney directly serving immigrant constituents within the District and beyond for the last 11 years.

I am here as an advocate for local African and African diaspora immigrants.

And most importantly, I am here as an immigrant I, having first landed in this great nation with my parents in the early 1980s.

It is on behalf of the collective of these voices and experiences that I am here today to plead to this body that you take the time to understand that maintaining temporary protective status (TPS) is essential for preserving one of the more critical tools at the Department of Homeland Security's disposal – the ability to protect life, liberty and the dignity of some of the most vulnerable of this globe's inhabitants.

To be sure, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security has the authority to designate a foreign country for TPS, due to conditions in said country, that temporarily prevent her nationals from returning safely, or, in certain circumstances, where the country is unable to handle the return of its nationals adequately. These temporary conditions include, but are not limited to:

- Ongoing armed conflict (such as civil war)
- An environmental disaster (such as earthquake or hurricane), or an epidemic
- Other extraordinary and temporary conditions

At present, there are ten countries with TPS designation, four of which can be found on the African Continent and her diaspora. These countries are **Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, and Haiti**. All told, nationwide there more than 440,000 people protected by TPS - 1039 are from Sudan, 49 from South Sudan, nearly 58,700 are from Haiti, and roughly 400 are from Somalia. The district is home to 33,000 TPS recipients.

The reasons for these countries respective TPS designations are as varied, as they have been, and continue to be, absolutely critical.

Without going into the most recent and/or relevant history of these countries, rest assured that TPS designation was thoughtfully considered, designated, and re-designated for each one of them.

Whether it's the extraordinary conditions in **Somalia**, since 1991; The continued ramifications of the 7.0 earthquake that hit **Haiti** in January of 2010, and most recently Hurricane Matthew in 2016, or; The ongoing armed conflicts and extraordinary conditions in since November of 1997 in **Sudan**, or October

of 2011 in **South Sudan** - The facts remain that TPS recipients from these countries still simply cannot go home.

That said, true to its name and function, TPS is not an everlasting protection, nor is it a path to permanent legal status (which leads to naturalization) within the US. As is, 3 of these 4 countries are up for their TPS designations to expire in 2018, with only South Sudan's re-designation up for consideration beyond 2018, in May of 2019.

#### TPS expiration dates

- Somalia – Sep 17, 2018
- Sudan – Nov 2, 2018
- South Sudan – May 2, 2019
- Haiti – Jan 22, 2018

Each of these nations has her own distinct voice, history, journey, and very **present crisis**. Nationals from each of these countries are in a position now where fighting for re-designation of TPS is absolutely critical and very essential for their existence within our borders. It is on behalf of these people that I speak to you today.

As an immigration attorney, I've had countless experiences of having to helplessly witness the threads in a client's life unravel, as TPS designation is either terminated, or slated for termination. All the while, knowing that they cannot just pack up and head "home," because home is now here! And for some, the U.S. has been home for decades. Even more importantly, most cannot return to their countries of origin because the conditions in their respective countries continue to be unsafe, uninhabitable, and/or remain in dire straits.

In considering the original objective of TPS, the obvious (immediate) solution would be, in countries where these extreme conditions persist, **TPS must not be terminated**.

Notwithstanding the humanitarian angle, it behooves the decision makers to run the numbers as well. The Center for American Progress (CAP) estimates that the cost of deporting one immigrant is \$10,070.36 CAP obtained this figure by estimating and adding together the cost of apprehension, detention, legal processing, and transportation— the four major tasks essential to conducting the kind of mass deportation and removal process advocated by ant immigration hardliners. Multiply this number by the 440,000 folks currently protected by TPS, and we are talking upwards of 4.4 billion dollars that the government would have to spend to deport these individuals. This doesn't even take into account the reduction of Social Security and Medicare contributions, the reduction in GDP, and the turnover costs to the employers of these individuals. I've attached a study by the Immigrant Legal Resource Center conducted in April of 2017 that neatly breaks down the math I'm referencing. The figures are staggering, and it's plain to see that it's nothing short of illogical to promote either the

termination of TPS and/or the whole sale deportation of those who've sought and obtained refuge in the US.

So, what is the solution? In the here and now, preserving TPS as we know it, as a tool to protect some of our community's most vulnerable members, is a must.

In the long run, encouraging Congress to take action to pass comprehensive immigration reform that can humanely address how to handle TPS recipients who have long since called this country home, is just as critical.

My respected Council, make no mistake - except for the Native American Indian whose ancestral ties to the land predate the 1<sup>st</sup> European settlers by centuries upon centuries, or save for the Africans brought here by force in chains, **we are ALL "literally" Immigrants, and the decedents thereof.** It is critical that we not forget this distinct legacy. America has always been a safe space, a zone of refuge for the worlds tired, poor and downtrodden. We have an opportunity now to maintain that American spirit by not withdrawing the TPS life line to the 100,000's of recipients who have made America home, and who continue to contribute to her progress! This is my plea, that this Committee does what it must to encourage Congress to Enact : PR 22-525, The Sense of the Council in Support of Legislative Action to Protect Temporary Protected Status Resolution of 2017

Thank you for this opportunity to share my perspectives on the TPS resolution and have a good morning.

**PR 22-448, the “SENSE OF THE COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO PROTECT DREAMERS RESOLUTION OF 2017,” and PR 22-525, the “SENSE OF THE COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO PROTECT TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS RESOLUTION OF 2017.”**

**Written Testimony of Victoria Latus, Student Attorney with the Immigrant Justice Clinic,  
American University Washington College of Law  
Thursday, November 2, 2017**

Good Morning Chairman Mendelson and members of the Council. My name is Victoria Latus and I am a law student at American University Washington College of Law and a student attorney in the school’s Immigrant Justice Clinic. Thank you to all Councilmembers for co-introducing these important resolutions and for the opportunity to testify in support of PR22-448 and PR22-525. Passing these resolutions will demonstrate the District of Columbia’s support for TPS beneficiaries and Dreamers across the nation, including the thousands of whom reside in the District.

The Immigrant Justice Clinic provides legal representation to immigrants in the D.C. metropolitan area, including many who are beneficiaries of DACA or TPS. In my testimony today, I would like to discuss two main points: first, the significant threats beneficiaries of both the DACA and TPS programs are facing under the current administration; and second, the need to maximize access to legal services, via bill 22-80, Access to Justice for Immigrants, given likelihood that the threats to both programs will lead to many more people seeking out legal assistance to understand their options in these uncertain times.

***Threats to Beneficiaries of DACA and TPS***

The DACA program provided a minimal level of security to young immigrants by granting them a two-year reprieve from deportation and by allowing them access to basic things that many Americans take for granted, like the ability to obtain an education, to legally work in this country, and to get a diver’s license. DACA benefitted almost 800,000 young people, including close to 1,000 DACA recipients residing in the District of Columbia, and many more living in the region. On September 5th of this year when Attorney General Sessions announced the end of the DACA program, the lives of these hundreds of thousands of hardworking young people were placed at risk. If Congress does not act to provide a permanent solution for Dreamers, thousands could be deported, and all will eventually lose their work authorization and access to other benefits.

Next, the TPS program protects individuals who came to the United States from countries that are unsafe because of armed conflicts, environmental disasters, and other life-threatening conditions. There are over 300,000 TPS holders in the country, and about 33,000 TPS-eligible individuals living in the District as members of our communities and contributors to our economy. Donald Trump has already threatened to reduce the scope of the TPS program by changing it from an eighteen-month status to only six months of protection. Additionally, if the TPS program is allowed to expire, tens of thousands of District residents will face the nearly impossible choice of either returning to dangerous conditions or remaining in the United States with no status and the threat of deportation looming over them.

### *The Need for Increased Access to Legal Services*

The two resolutions before the Council are an important way to urge Congress to act on behalf of DACA and TPS recipients; however, regardless of Congress' actions on the two programs, immigrants will remain uncertain and afraid of the changes happening under the current administration. The uncertainty that beneficiaries of both DACA and TPS face highlights the critical need for access to legal services. Even if the federal government chooses to extend these programs, the current political climate will likely urge many immigrants to seek out their legal options and alternatives. Even worse, if Congress does not act, immigrants will need legal assistance in order to remain in the United States, to continue to work, pay their taxes, and gain an education.

In response to the administration's actions ending DACA, nonprofit legal organizations and legal clinics like the Immigrant Justice Clinic in the D.C. area have worked to provide assistance to Dreamers seeking to renew their DACA status. Certainly, if the TPS program expires, clinics and others will work to provide services to advise TPS holders about their legal options. However, despite the hard work of these organizations, the legal needs of the immigrant communities in the District are far greater than the resources currently available. If Congress fails to act on DACA and TPS, these needs will grow exponentially.

In addition to the resolutions before you today, the Council can pass bill 22-80, the Access to Justice for Immigrants Amendment Act of 2017, to help provide financial resources to legal aid organizations that serve immigrants in the District. Regardless of Congress' actions on the two issues discussed today, our communities will continue to face tough immigration enforcement. In light of the current anti-immigrant political climate, providing funding for legal services will demonstrate the District's commitment to itself as a sanctuary and will show the District's care for all of its residents.

### *Conclusion*

In summary, I strongly support PR22-448 and PR22-525 as messages urging action on behalf of DACA and TPS recipients and would encourage the Council of the District of Columbia to pass bill 22-80 to further support immigrants in the District.

Noel Karl Lebondzo Gandou

Commissioner @ Mayor Office on African Affairs

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November, 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

My name is Noel Karl Lebondzo Gandou, Commissioner at the Mayor Office on African Affairs. I am here to support our dynamic but underserved African communities who benefited from DACA and TPS.

We urge you to call upon the United States Congress to take legislative action to protect Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) recipients. The DACA program provides a two-year renewable reprieve from deportation to individuals whose parents brought them illegally to the U.S. when they were children. Additionally, the program allows these individuals to study, work, and obtain a driver's license. If Congress does not pass legislation to protect DACA recipients, almost 800,000 individuals will be vulnerable to deportation.

We urge President Trump and Congress to act immediately to extend the temporary protected status (TPS) program. Many African countries such as Democratic republic of Congo, Sudan, Sierra Leone are experiencing on-going armed conflicts, environmental disasters, or extraordinary life-threatening conditions. Individuals who qualify for TPS must renew their status every 18 months. Reduction of the TPS program, regardless of the nationality of the individual covered under TPS, would adversely affect the District since approximately 33,000 individuals who qualify for TPS reside in the District.

We have come too far not to stop now.

Sincerely,

Noel Karl Lebondzo Gandou

Commissioner @ Mayor Office on African Affairs



2200 California Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

**Testimony for “Sense of the Council Regarding Support of Legislative Action to Protect Dreamers Resolution of 2017 and Legislative Action to Protect Temporary Protected Status Resolution of 2017”**

November 2, 2017

Washington English Center

Gabriela Mossi, Executive Director

Chairman Mendelson and other members of the DC Council, thank you for the opportunity to speak at this hearing. My name is Gabriela Mossi. I am the Executive Director of Washington English Center.

I join many colleagues who serve the immigrant community today to reiterate the importance of protecting all DC residents. We know the Council has been supportive of our immigrant communities and we hope you will continue to do so through the proposed initiatives.

Washington English Center is a nonprofit provider of English as a Second Language or ESL services in the District of Columbia. We serve up to 1,700 individuals in this area each year, we are open 6 days a week, days and evenings. We have provided English language instruction, computer classes, citizenship test preparation and workforce programs to adult immigrants in our community for almost 25 years.

We have served students from 90 countries but each term approximately 65% of them are Latino and the highest representations are from Central America. Salvadoran students are consistently the largest group up to 20% per term, followed by Guatemalans and, increasing every year, Hondurans. Because WEC welcomes all students regardless of their immigration status, we don't have data on the number of students under the DACA program or Temporary Protective Status. But we know that if just the threat of ending these programs has decreased our enrollment within these groups about 15% at our school, then discontinuing these programs would devastate neighborhoods, businesses, nonprofits, churches... in short our communities, our families.

Central to our mission is that all immigrants gain the education and support they need to build a better future for themselves and for their children. Clearly, we cannot do that in an environment of fear and uncertainty or if families are separated. Residents of the District cannot make valuable contributions to our community without education, language skills being a basic one.



2200 California Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

It is also important to recognize that the success of our program is not a one-way street. Our students put out enormous effort to improve their language skills. Most of our students juggle this classwork against job and family responsibilities. Against many odds, they find the time to learn because they know how important it is if they are to achieve their aspirations. In turn, we all benefit from the increased contributions they are able to make to the community with those skills.

They are exactly the kind of committed, hard-working people that we want to live in our city and to help build its future.

We need the Council to make strong statements to Congress and the President and pass these resolutions. We want to be sure that all residents of the District know that all are welcome and their local government and all agencies are on their side. Other specific actions we support and want to ask the Council to pass:

- Continue to support adequate funding for adult education.
- Pass Bill 22-80 Access to Justice for Immigrants which is sorely needed.
- Support access to and informational outreach about health care.

To conclude, we do recognize the stresses placed on the city from federal authorities. But, as you consider how continue to move forward, we urge that your decisions be guided by the long view of the future that can be obtained by the decisions you make today.



Washington English Center is a tax-exempt organization (EIN 52-2106206).

*Featured in the 2017-2018 Catalogue for Philanthropy  
"One of the best small charities in the Greater Washington region."*



DC City Council  
November 2, 2017

Thank you to All Councilmembers for co-introducing this important resolution. I am testifying in support of PR22-448 and PR22-525, with a greater focus on TPS. My name is Vicki Gass and I am the Senior Policy Advisor for Central America for Oxfam America. For those who don't know, Oxfam is a global organization that works to end the injustice of poverty by helping people build better futures, holding the powerful accountable and saving lives in disasters. Our mission is to tackle the root causes of poverty and end the manmade injustice of inequality. We defend human rights and help people engage directly in the key decisions that affect their lives. Oxfam works in over 90 countries, including the Central American countries of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua where we have worked for decades.

As you know, Acting Secretary for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Elaine Duke will soon decide whether or not to extend Temporary Protection Status (TPS) for people from Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador. Oxfam has asked the Secretary to extend TPS for these countries for another 18 months and to exercise her authority under Section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C 1254(a)) to extend Temporary Protection Status (TP5) for the citizens from El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In our letter to her, Oxfam argued that it is in the national security and economic interest of the United States to extend TPS and is consistent with US foreign policy goals in the region. Oxfam is also urging the U.5. Congress to pass meaningful legislation that will end the immigration limbo of TPS holders and provide them with a road to citizenship.

Oxfam is requesting an 18 month extension because ending TPS will undermine US Foreign Policy towards Central America, and because the countries do not have the social and economic infrastructure to absorb a huge influx of people. Nor can the governments guarantee the safety and well-being of returnees due to the high rates of violence and impunity.

Since 2015, when unaccompanied minors and families were surging across the border, the US government has spent 1.3 billion dollars with taxpayer money to address the root causes for the out migration, including violence prevention, institutional strengthening and anti-impunity measures, trade facilitation, and market development. While some progress has been made in anti-corruption efforts and trade facilitation, there is still much that needs to be done to see returns on US investments in the

region. Many of the untenable conditions that drove migration in the first place still exist and continue to be push factors for out-migration.

To begin with, there is a humanitarian crisis in the region. The level of violence people in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala are experiencing has been called a war in all but name only. Amnesty International Secretary General Salil Shetty described it as “virtual war zones where lives seem to be expendable and millions live in constant terror at what gang members or public security forces can do to them or their loved ones.” He added “these millions are now the protagonists in one of the world’s least visible refugee crisis.” Similarly, Wendy Cue of the UN OCHA program and Vicente Raimundo Nuñez-Flores of the European humanitarian aid program ECHO, stated “Although they are officially post-conflict countries, the humanitarian consequence of shocking levels of violence differ, little if at all, from armed conflicts.” Finally, researchers Cantor and Plewa wrote that the “recent rates of violent deaths in these two countries [Honduras and El Salvador] in certain years appear to be second only to Syria.” To ground these statements consider that homicide rates in the Northern Triangle countries are eight times more than the global average. Similarly, in a ten day period from September 20 to 30 of this year, 437 people were killed in El Salvador – 43 a day! Or, that Honduras continues to be the most dangerous place in the world for environmental and human rights activists.

Secondly there is the often less visible female face of violence and migration. According to the Honduran National University’s Violence Observatory, nearly 4,000 women were assassinated from 2009 to 2016; and, in the first 7 months of this year, 180 women were assassinated. On average, a Honduran woman is killed every 16 hours. On October 31, 2017, the Guatemalan National Institute of Forensic Science reported that 62 women are violently killed every month. Suyapa Martínez of the Center for Women’s Rights (CDM) also recently denounced that of the 365 known cases of femicide in 2016; only two had a verdict by a judge. The high level of impunity fosters even more violence against women.

Third, the levels of violence are so high that forced internal displacement in the Northern Triangle and Mexico is increasing. For example, the Honduran government identified 174,000 displaced people in only 20 of the 300 municipalities of Honduras, equal to 4% of the population. In El Salvador, 2.1 per cent of interviewees in a national survey had changed residence in the country due to threats or other violence in just one year (2012), a figure that rose to 4.6 per cent for 2014.

Evidence indicates that each displacement exacerbates a downward spiral in living conditions for IDPs in the NTCA. Compared to non-displaced households, IDP households have less access to housing and stable and formal jobs; have lower access to education; suffer greater overcrowding and health problems; and struggle to cover basic needs. Poor children and women are especially vulnerable to sexual and other violence when displaced. Often precursors to out-migration, the lack of safe and viable livelihood options for people are additional push factors for IDPs to leave their countries.

On top of the violence and lack of infrastructure, there is also the ongoing environmental crisis in the “Dry Corridor” of Central America. The United Nation’s Food and Agriculture Organization recently reported that Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, are experiencing one of the worst droughts of the last ten years with over 3.5 million in need of humanitarian assistance. The protracted drought has

increased the vulnerability of small scale producers and rural communities given its effects on the loss of livelihoods and decapitalization of rural household economies. The significant reduction in agricultural production has reduced food stocks, decreased dietary diversity and increased cases of malnutrition in children under five. With no end in sight and inadequate government response, the effects of the drought have also forced migration to over-populated urban areas or abroad.

Further, the incursion of organized crime into many state and local structures is exacerbating the structural weaknesses within government institutions. In Guatemala, former president Otto Perez Molina and other government officials, including the vice-president, are on trial for corruption and influence peddling that extends throughout the country. And since August 2017, Guatemala has been in constant crisis due to the current president, Jimmy Morales, trying to roll back the anti-corruption measures so strongly supported by the U.S. government.

Last of all, the NCTA countries continue to be plagued by pervasive poverty and inequality. According to the World Bank, the NTCA countries are among the poorest nations in Latin America with 30%, 26%, and 17% of the people in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador, respectively, living on less than \$2 a day. The dominate economic model is oriented towards exports rather than building internal markets, based on keeping wages low and hours irregular, and maintaining fiscal policies that unfairly benefit the economic and politically powerful. Central American governments are unable to guarantee the protection of their citizens or provide lasting responses to the social and economic challenges.

The U.S. government with bipartisan backing in the U.S. Congress identified all of these problems as factors for out-migration and has appropriated funding to address the root causes. Returning nearly 258,000 migrants to El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua will undermine the work that is just beginning to see some progress and will have a devastating impact on these fragile economies that depend on the remittances – in El Salvador and Honduras, remittances are 17% of the Gross Domestic Product. Moreover, deporting these migrants could have the adverse effect of displacing countrymen and women with less resources and education causing yet another wave of immigration to the US. Here in this country, families and communities will be destroyed and our economies weakened.

In short, the conditions do not yet exist in Central America for their safe return and deporting people back to the untenable conditions that drove migration in the first place is unconscionable. I urge you to support these resolutions.



## **Negative Consequences of Ending Temporary Protected Status (TPS) in El Salvador and Honduras for U.S. Interests in Promoting Prosperity, Security, and Governance in the Northern Triangle**

*NOTE: This document focuses on the negative implications of ending TPS in terms of its repercussions for Central America and undermining U.S. foreign policy interests and investments in that region. This is not to overlook the profound human, economic, and social costs to the United States of ending TPS for people who have deep roots in this country. These costs have been thoroughly documented, most recently in studies by [Immigrant Legal Resource Center \(ILRC\)](#) and [Center for Migration Studies](#), and by researchers at the [Center for Migratory Research](#) at the University of Kansas, with the support of migrant organizations.<sup>1</sup>*

The United States has allocated more than \$1.3 billion USD to the U.S. Strategy for Engagement in Central America since it was approved in 2014. The current Trump Administration budget proposal would push that to \$1.8 billion. The strategy describes three lines of work—Prosperity, Security, and Governance—aimed at moving toward “sustained, broad-based economic growth, better government performance, and improved security conditions” and “advance[ing] economic and social inclusion and safeguard[ing] citizen safety and security.” At the Conference on Prosperity and Security in Central America in Miami this past June, Vice President Pence affirmed the U.S. government’s commitment to a “stronger, safer, and more prosperous Central America.”

Ending TPS for Hondurans and El Salvadorans would have profound negative impacts on these goals, undermining U.S. investments in improved security, prosperity, and governance in the region.

### **Section 1: Undermining Public Safety and Security**

Deported TPS beneficiaries would be returning to an extremely unstable security situation in both El Salvador and Honduras. Their vulnerability may be higher than most deported migrants who have only been in the United States a short period of time, as they may have limited familial and social networks and knowledge of the country due to their long time away from El Salvador and Honduras. This would also imply a limited network to provide them with protection in precarious situations, forcing them to go underground into hiding, to enter the informal economy, or to flee the country again.

The two countries have held a grim competition for the title of world’s most dangerous country in terms of murder per capita in the last several years. Though official statistics of homicides at a national level for both El Salvador and Honduras decreased in 2016, homicides remain extremely high, particularly in the cities where TPS recipients are likely to return, and some other crimes are on the rise. The security situation for the average citizen remains extremely precarious. The World Economic Forum ranked El Salvador as the world’s third most dangerous country and Honduras as the world’s ninth most dangerous country in 2016. Levels of internal displacement are high in both countries, and internal displacement is often a precursor to migration. Returned

migrants would also be at high risk for extortion and being targeted for gang recruitment, thus potentially strengthening organized crime networks in the region.

### *1.1 Security Challenges in Honduras*

Honduras' homicide rate in 2016 is still dangerously high at 59 per 100,000.<sup>2</sup> Rates are even higher in the two principal cities, to which many TPS recipients would likely return if deported: Tegucigalpa (86 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants) and San Pedro Sula (112 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants). San Pedro Sula, to which deported Hondurans are flown by the United States, was ranked the most dangerous city in the world in 2016.<sup>3</sup>

Moreover, the levels of femicide (gender-motivated killings of women) have increased significantly in 2017 with 187 women murdered so far between January and June.<sup>4</sup> In addition, during the first six months of 2017, the same numbers of LGBTI individuals have already been murdered as during all of 2016.<sup>5</sup> Finally, there has been an increase in multiple homicides or massacres, the killing of three people or more in the same location and context, including of minors and children during the first six months of 2017.<sup>6</sup> Levels of other crimes, including extortion, kidnapping, domestic abuse, and sexual violence, remain high and generate internal displacement.

Internal displacement is substantial and ongoing. According to the Honduran National Human Rights Commission, there was a 22% increase in the registered cases of forced internal displacement or risk of the same from January to May 2017 compared with the same time period in 2016.<sup>7</sup> A 2015 study by the Inter-Institutional Commission for the Protection of Persons Displaced by Violence, made up of government, UN Refugee Agency, and civil society representatives, found 174,000 people were internally displaced in the 20 municipalities they surveyed.<sup>8</sup> While the Honduran government recognizes the existence of internal displacement, the legislature has failed to pass a draft law on internal displacement that has been in discussion for several years. Incipient efforts by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and NGOs to relocate internally displaced persons at grave risk only cover small numbers of those in need.

Honduras's human rights protection systems remain extremely weak. A human rights ministry announced by the government does not yet exist. A mechanism to protect human rights defenders and journalists covers less than a hundred people with minimal protection measures. Child protection services and programs to address domestic violence are inadequate and fail to protect women and children from domestic and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence, or to provide critically needed services.<sup>9</sup> And, perhaps most concerning is the low rate of effective investigation and prosecution of serious crimes. According to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights office in Honduras, "impunity in Honduras is at a historical high and is a key factor contributing to violence and insecurity."<sup>10</sup>

While a police reform effort has resulted in a substantial purging of the police force, few of the police removed have been investigated and prosecuted. Honduras also continues to rely on Military Police, military soldiers with minimal police training who conduct sweeps and patrolling

of neighborhoods but lack the training, to conduct investigations that are key to sustainably reducing crimes. These forces have committed a number of human rights violations. Operations by the Military Police in neighborhoods to target gang members often do not provide local community members with protection, may lead to reprisals and heightened gang recruitment once they leave, or can send gang members out to rural areas where there was not previously a presence.

### 1.2 Security Challenges in El Salvador

El Salvador's homicide rate was ranked the highest in Latin America, with 81.2 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants in 2016.<sup>11</sup> In El Salvador, the crimes of extortion, kidnapping, and rape continue unabated. Femicides decreased slightly from January to February 2017 but increased again in March of the same year.<sup>12</sup>

The Salvadoran government has, on paper, a balanced security strategy in *Plan Salvador Seguro*. However, what is most evident is a "*mano dura*" state security strategy focused on cracking down on gangs that is accompanied by serious human rights abuses. According to the State Department's Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 2016, "As of October the attorney general was investigating 53 possible cases of extrajudicial killings. One took place in 2013, none in 2014, 11 in 2015, and 41 in 2016."<sup>13</sup> Cases of excessive use of force, disappearances, and extrajudicial executions by the police continue to be documented by the government's Ombudsman Office on Human Rights (Procuraduría de Derechos Humanos, PDDH), NGOs, and the media. According to one recent study, 51% of respondents considered the police to be corrupt in some way.<sup>14</sup>

As in Honduras, NGOs that work with targeted communities say that police and military operations to rid communities of gang members can lead to reprisals against community members and increased recruitment when the security forces withdraw, and can push gang members to new areas where they had not been previously - contributing to levels of internal displacement.

Internal displacement in El Salvador is widespread though insufficiently documented. As the 2016 State Department Report on Human Rights Practices summed up, "According to the most recent poll conducted in December 2014 by IUDOP-UCA, 4.6 percent of surveyed citizens reported being internally displaced due to violence and the threat of violence and 8 percent reported having tried to migrate to another country for the same reasons. In 2015, the NGO International Rescue Committee estimated that the number of displaced individuals was approximately 324,000, or 5.2 percent of the country's population."<sup>15</sup> In El Salvador, from January to July 2017, the Civil Society Working Group on Internal Displacement documented as examples 53 cases of violence and forced displacement affecting 256 individuals. The most common reasons behind the displacement were the murder of a relative, attempted murder, or rape.<sup>16</sup> As in Honduras, the Salvadoran child protection system is rife with weaknesses and protections for women and children survivors of domestic and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence are practically non-existent. For crimes of this nature that do get reported, there is a 95% impunity rate.<sup>17</sup>

The Salvadoran government does not recognize internal displacement and, as a result, there are no government services specifically for internally displaced persons. El Salvador's small and dense population and the national reach of the gangs make it difficult to internally relocate persons at risk safely.

### 1.3 Returned migrants vulnerable to extortion, fuel organized crime and gangs

Extortion is a major problem in El Salvador and Honduras. Salvadorans and Hondurans pay an estimated \$390 million and \$200 million, respectively, in annual extortion fees to organized crime groups.<sup>18</sup> Extortion is the “economic engine behind gangs and represents the largest share of gang income.”<sup>19</sup> The amount of extortion money collected in Honduras is higher than the federal budget dedicated to security and to health.<sup>20</sup> Nearly 80% of registered small businesses in Honduras report having been extorted.<sup>21</sup> According to the Honduran Chamber of Commerce, 72,000 jobs have been lost due to the collection of “war tax” or extortion, and at least 18,000 businesses have been closed.<sup>22</sup>

Primary targets for extortion include taxi drivers, public transportation operators, small businesses, merchants, residents of poor neighborhoods, and individuals with family members in the United States. Deportation of TPS holders who have lived in the United States for longer than a decade would prove a boon to the extortion industry. This population is viewed as having resources – and community and gang members have observed family members of TPS holders in El Salvador and Honduras receiving the benefit of money to support education, housing, and other costs. These very same family members in El Salvador and Honduras have sometimes been targets of extortion themselves – based on the very fact of having a family member who lives in the United States.<sup>23</sup> Some cases in the Central American Minor in-country refugee processing program (CAM) have involved Salvadoran youth threatened with harm, death, rape, or kidnapping unless their parent in the U.S. provided money to a gang.<sup>24</sup>

In addition to creating new extortion opportunities, deported TPS holders also provide a new source of potential recruits for gangs, given their vulnerability and lack of support network in Honduras and El Salvador. Addressing extortion and gangs are two U.S. priorities in the region, yet deporting the Honduran and Salvadoran TPS holding population works directly against these priorities.

## **Section 2: Threats to Prosperity in the Northern Triangle**

Few would argue with Vice President Pence's call at the June 2017 Conference on Prosperity and Security in Central America, for “work[ing] together... to provide more people with a path out of poverty –to give the citizens of Central America a better path and a brighter future.” Now and for the foreseeable future, remittances will be both a de facto social safety net in the region and a significant source of income for the national treasuries of both Honduras and El Salvador.

### 2.1. Remittances as social safety net

In 2016, El Salvador received \$4.58 billion in remittances, the largest amount ever, and especially startling when compared to a generously calculated total of \$2.6 billion for all US formal economic activity, including foreign direct investment.<sup>25</sup> Remittances, contributed by the estimated 2 million Salvadorans living in the United States, provided almost twice as much as total U.S. public and private sector investments combined in 2016. Honduras received more than \$3.6 billion in remittances during the same period. Official statistics put this amount at more than 17% of total GDP for both countries.<sup>26</sup>

Two recent studies by the Inter-American Development Bank described the role of remittances as a social safety net in El Salvador and Honduras.<sup>27</sup> According to that research, one in every five people in El Salvador and one in six in Honduras receives remittances. Of those, about 70% are women in both countries. In El Salvador, 79% are low-income or poor households; that number rises to 83% in Honduras. About 90% in both countries reported using remittances to cover basic expenses on a monthly basis. If TPS ends, the negative consequences will be swift and severe for the economies of these countries and their families who depend on remittances.

### 2.2 Ending TPS would remove an important source of contributions to the tax base of El Salvador and Honduras.

The U.S. strategy for improving prosperity in Central America, as articulated in the State Department materials and reiterated by Vice President Pence in June, emphasizes the importance of tax collection as an engine for sustaining long-term improvements in security and governance. There is ample evidence that TPS holders are a significant source of Value Added Tax (VAT) revenues. A 2008 study conducted by the Fundación Nacional para el Desarrollo (FUNDE) in El Salvador, the National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities (recently renamed Alianza Americas), and the Centro Regional de Investigaciones Multidisciplinarias at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) showed that remittances accounted for nearly 13% of total VAT collection in El Salvador. The sum contributed to VAT from remittances exceeded the total amount that El Salvador spent on anti-poverty programs that year by more than 600%.<sup>28</sup>

Removing this important source of tax revenue could be extremely destabilizing to countries that are already struggling to produce enough tax revenues to cover security, governance and anti-poverty programs.

## **Section 3: Lack of capacity for Return/Reintegration Undermines Other Governance and Security Objectives**

The U.S. State Department governance goals include improved systems for return/reintegration of returned (deported) migrants, judicial reform, transparency, and protection of human rights. All of these goals would be undermined by ending TPS. This section will focus on the negative impacts of overloading already fragile and inadequate systems for return and reintegration.

### 3.1 Overload systems for return/reintegration.

In addition to the inadequate conditions for safe return described in Section 1, return and reintegration services for migrants reflect the overall weakness of Salvadoran and Honduran governments to provide basic services to their citizens. Both El Salvador and Honduras have only incipient, small programs to receive deported migrants. These programs are currently unable to support the flow of deported migrants and are often limited to reception services next to airports in each country to receive deportees from the United States and centers along borders to receive deportees from Mexico. There are no comprehensive programs to support their reintegration into society and to ensure migrants do not fall prey to dangerous situations once again that may lead to increased internal displacement or remigration. A larger group of deported migrants, such as TPS beneficiaries, would overwhelm this system even more.

Neither country provides services that successfully facilitate access to education, employment, or healthcare for the majority of deported migrants. Case management models that follow up with deported migrants to ensure that they do not fall into precarious situations are run by a limited number of churches and NGOs, and are already overburdened. Lack of services, support, and follow up for deported migrants leaves the most vulnerable with no choice but to flee again.

### 3.2 Return and Reintegration Challenges in Honduras

Deported Hondurans go through the Honduran government's official repatriation at Centers for the Care of the Returned Migrant (CAMR, acronym in Spanish), currently located at three different points in the country. Children and families deported by land go through the repatriation process at the El Belen repatriation center in San Pedro Sula while single adults go through the process in Omoa. Deportations by plane (presumably all those coming from the U.S.) would be processed at the La Lima airport center.

Government staff and the organizations that ensure that Honduran citizens are repatriated safely into the country are already at full capacity. An increase in deportations of Honduran citizens created by a loss of TPS would be unmanageable. The government has neither the physical capacity nor trained staff to accommodate the basic repatriation process that all migrants must go through upon return.

Beyond the approximately hour-long repatriation process, capacity to provide reintegration services to returned migrants is even scarcer.

Services for repatriated migrants by government entities and nonprofits are limited by location, age, and other qualifying criteria, which means that the vast majority of deported migrants have no support upon return to their country. Currently, nonprofits can support a small number of returned young people in San Pedro Sula, Tegucigalpa, and Olancho. These nonprofits provide psychosocial support, a key piece of successful reintegration, and vocational training for young people to have economic opportunities in their country. The Honduran government also has programs to provide services for deported migrants. However, those programs only have the capacity to serve a small number of the currently returned migrants, lack vital psychosocial and

individual accompaniment, and are not easily accessed by migrants. The local nonprofits building repatriation and reintegration models that can, alongside policy changes, make a lasting impact in the lives of young people who migrated would be unable to provide services and operate successfully if TPS holders were deported.

### 3.3 Return and Reintegration Challenges in El Salvador

Similar to Honduras, the Salvadoran government and nonprofits offer programs to deported Salvadorans that are limited in capacity and scope. The Salvadoran government has the Consejo Nacional para la Protección y Desarrollo de la Persona Migrante y su Familia (CONMIGRANTES) through its foreign ministry that is meant to provide access to reintegration services for returned Salvadoran migrants through Departmental Committees for Human Mobility. These committees were created in the departments of Usulután, Chalatenango, La Libertad, and Santa Ana in 2015.<sup>29</sup> Information about their outcomes and scale is not easily available. Government reports suggest that the current programs may reach only a tiny fraction of returned migrants. The Salvadoran government reports having provided training in construction work to some 14 returned migrants.<sup>30</sup> While these efforts to provide opportunities to migrants could serve as models, these government programs serve a very small percentage of the returned population and lack vital psychosocial support. Any increase in deportations though the loss of TPS would immediately overburden these fledgling governmental programs to serve migrants. In addition, a few nonprofits and churches also have programs to assist returned adult migrants, but their capacity is also very limited. An increase in deportations would make it impossible for governments and nonprofits to provide basic services.

### 3.4 Pressure on other fragile governance systems including anti-violence and human rights protections

According to Cristosal, a human rights organization in El Salvador that works with internally displaced individuals, “in our documentation of people internally displaced by violence and returned migrants with special protection needs, the overwhelming perception of the these vulnerable populations is that the state is unwilling or incapable of protecting victims of violence. 63% of our cases of internal displacement last year refused to denounce crimes they suffered, because they believe the Salvadoran authorities to be unable to respond and to be infiltrated by organized crime, or because they fear reprisals by their persecutors. This indicates a crisis of governance and rule of law in El Salvador, and this crisis would be significantly undermined by an influx of returned TPS holders that would overwhelm already collapsing state protection and reintegration capacity.”<sup>31</sup>

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**Statement of American University Washington College of Law, Immigrant Justice Clinic  
Before the Committee of the Whole  
Council of the District of Columbia**

**On PR 22-525, Sense of the Council in Support of Legislative Action to Protect Temporary  
Protected Status Resolution of 2017**

**&**

**PR 22-448, Sense of the Council in Support of Legislative Action to Protect Dreamers  
Resolution 2017**

**Position: SUPPORT**

**November 2, 2017**

Good morning, Chairman Mendelson and members of the Committee of the Whole. My name is Evelyn Haro, and I along with my colleagues, Michelle Villegas and Victoria Latus, serve as a student attorney with the Immigrant Justice Clinic at American University Washington College of Law. As student attorneys we provide direct legal services for the immigrant community in the Washington, D.C. metro area under the supervision of Professor Jayesh Rathod and Professor Cori Alonso-Yoder.

My colleagues and I will speak to the importance of the proposed resolutions as they relate to the ability of members of D.C.'s immigrant community to continue residing and working in the District. I will discuss the resolution regarding Temporary Protected Status (TPS), PR 22-525. Michelle Villegas will speak to the unique vulnerabilities of the children in these communities when she discusses the future of so-called "Dreamers" through PR 22-448. Lastly, Victoria Latus will address the impact these two proposed resolutions can have on the pending "Access to Justice" legislation presently before the Council and aimed at funding immigration legal services. To begin, I will lay out what Temporary Protected Status is and the kinds of eligibility requirements placed on TPS applicants. Then, I will address the economic and humanitarian costs of failing to extend TPS or finding more permanent solutions for these communities.

***What is Temporary Protected Status (TPS)?***

Since 1990, the Attorney General has had the ability to grant citizens from certain foreign countries, or sections of those countries, a special temporary immigration status known as Temporary Protected Status (TPS)<sup>1</sup> under Section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act. This is meant to be a humanitarian designation, so the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) must first find that these countries have experienced major disruptions, like civil wars, ongoing armed conflicts, environmental disasters, extraordinary life-threatening conditions, or other such threats. Essentially, foreign citizens who apply for Temporary Protected Status cannot

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<sup>1</sup> INA § 244, 8 U.S.C. § 1254

reasonably return to their countries of citizenship, so they are permitted to reside and work within the United States and are subject to the renewal of that status as the government sees fit.<sup>2</sup>

TPS designations for Central American countries directly impacts the Latino population in the Washington, D.C. area. In a 2017 study, the Migration Policy Institute (MPI), an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit think tank in Washington, D.C. dedicated to the analysis of global migration, found that “[t]he U.S. cities with the most Central Americans in the 2011-2015 period were the greater Los Angeles, New York City, **Washington, D.C.**, Miami, and Houston metropolitan areas. [And that] [t]hese five metropolitan areas accounted for 52 percent of Central Americans in the United States.”<sup>3</sup>

### *TPS Beneficiaries Work With the Law*

The defining characteristic of TPS is the government’s central role in the lives of TPS recipients.<sup>4</sup> In order to qualify for TPS, recipients must proactively work within the legal framework of TPS. On the one hand, TPS recipients do receive the benefit of cancellation of removal from the country while the temporary status is in effect, and they are also granted employment authorization.<sup>5</sup> On the other hand, though, TPS recipients only receive these benefits if they consistently work **with** the law by reapplying for TPS at regular intervals of eighteen (18) months, maintaining continual physical presence in the United States, and generally abiding by the law. Regardless of these requirements, TPS is **not** a pathway to citizenship or lawful resident status. Furthermore, TPS beneficiaries have no access to publicly funded social services.

Moreover, TPS is only granted to those that meet the eligibility requirements set out in the Immigration and Nationality Act.<sup>6</sup> The applicant must first show that he or she was present in the United States at the time his or her home country was designated for TPS. The applicant must then also show that he or she is admissible<sup>7</sup> in the United States. In order to be considered

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<sup>2</sup> Countries that currently have TPS designation are: El Salvador (in response to the 2001 earthquakes); Haiti (in response to the 2010 Haiti earthquake); Honduras & Nicaragua (in response to Hurricane Mitch in 1998); Somalia; South Sudan; Sudan; Syria (in response to ongoing civil war); Nepal (in response to earthquake); and Yemen (in response to ongoing civil war), available at <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status>.

<sup>3</sup> Gabriel Lesser & Jeanne Batalova, *Central American Immigrants in the United States*, (2017) (emphasis added), <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/central-american-immigrants-united-states>

<sup>4</sup> Cecilia Menjivar, *Liminal Legality: Salvadoran and Guatemalan Immigrants’ Lives in the United States*, 111 *American Journal of Sociology* 999–1037, 999 (2006).

<sup>5</sup> INA § 244(a)(1), 8 U.S.C. § 1254(a)(1)

<sup>6</sup> INA § 244(c)(2), (3), 8 U.S.C. § 1254(c)(2), (3).

<sup>7</sup> Not just any foreign citizen is eligible to receive TPS. An individual is not eligible for TPS if the person has been: convicted of any felony or two or more misdemeanors committed in the U.S.; found to be inadmissible to the U.S. based on grounds listed in INA section 212(a), including non-waivable criminal and security-related grounds; or subject to any of the mandatory bars to asylum. A person can also become ineligible for TPS if they, without good cause, fail to

“admissible,” the applicant may not have any felony convictions or more than one misdemeanor conviction on his or her record.<sup>8</sup>

### *Limiting TPS Spells Economic and Humanitarian Costs*

#### Economic Costs

According to a 2017 study by the Immigration Legal Resource Center (ILRC), approximately 300,000 individuals from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti have received TPS in the twenty-seven (27) years since the program has been in existence.<sup>9</sup> Of those, nearly 32,359 reside right here in Washington, D.C., not including people from other countries but also covered under TPS, like those from Nicaragua. In essence, the District has one of the highest TPS beneficiary densities in the country, thereby making it uniquely vulnerable to any fluctuation in this community.

The Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) is a national nonprofit that provides “legal trainings, educational materials, and advocacy to advance immigrant rights.”<sup>10</sup> According to one Immigrant Legal Resource Center study:

- Deporting all Salvadoran, Honduran, and Haitian TPS holders would cost taxpayers **\$3.1 billion dollars**.
- Ending TPS for these three countries would result in a **\$6.9 billion reduction to Social Security and Medicare** contributions over a decade.
- Ending TPS for these three countries would lead to a **\$45.2 billion reduction in GDP** over a decade.
- The wholesale lay-off of the entire employed TPS population from these three countries would result in **\$967 million of turnover costs**, e.g. costs employers incur when an employee leaves a position.”

*See, Id.* (emphasis added).

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re-register within 12 months since the status was designation or if they fail to maintain continuous physical presence and continuous residence in the U.S. INA § 244(c)(2), (3), 8 U.S.C. § 1254 (c)(2), (3).

<sup>8</sup> The Attorney General does have some discretion regarding the inadmissibility of a TPS applicant. The Attorney General may weigh humanitarian purposes, family unity, or the public interest when considering an inadmissibility waiver. INA § 244(c)(2)(A)(iii).

<sup>9</sup> Amanda Baran, Jose Magaña-Salgado & Tom K. Wong, *Economic Contributions by Salvadoran, Honduran, and Haitian TPS Holders, The Cost to Taxpayers, GDP, and Businesses of Ending TPS*, (2017), [https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/2017-04-18\\_economic\\_contributions\\_by\\_salvadoran\\_honduran\\_and\\_haitian\\_tps\\_holders.pdf](https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/2017-04-18_economic_contributions_by_salvadoran_honduran_and_haitian_tps_holders.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

Moreover, the study found that the “loss in GDP and turnover costs would be felt most acutely in the locations where Salvadorans, Hondurans, and Haitians are primarily located, including major metropolitan areas,”<sup>11</sup> like the D.C., Maryland, and Virginia area. In short, there is a huge economic liability for the financial well-being of the District that cannot be ignored.

### Humanitarian Costs

Beyond the financial risk, failing to extend the TPS program would further aggravate the existing sense of instability and insecurity for members of the D.C. community. While TPS creates a threshold legal status for beneficiaries, it is truly just a form of liminal legality, an “in-between” status that is constantly in flux and is reliant on the proactive action of the applicant to engage with the law.<sup>12</sup> A person’s immigration status is regularly diluted down to documented status. However, recipients of TPS often occupy a gray legal area in which they are neither documented nor undocumented, “but [instead] may have characteristics of both.”<sup>13</sup> Because of this limbo legal status, TPS recipients are treated as different and secondary in society. These legally fabricated social distinctions undermine the fact that many TPS recipients have become integrated into the very social fabric of D.C. life. Foreign nationals from Honduras or Nicaragua, for example, have built lives in the United States under TPS for the past eighteen years. We see these TPS beneficiaries every day – they are our classmates, our neighbors, our fellow church-goers, and our friends. We cannot fail to acknowledge the human element at risk here.

Moreover, TPS was meant to be used as a tool in responding to humanitarian needs and should be used as such. Taking the example of Haiti, we see how a country should receive TPS designation even after the event triggering the designation has passed. Haiti first received TPS designation following the 2010 earthquake, but its TPS designation has been extended regularly because the country’s recovery has been slow and marked by several setbacks – most recently, Hurricane Irma devastated crops and further damaged infrastructure. Under the current process, however, TPS recipients are left to contend with the ongoing difficulties in their home countries and an inability to achieve full social integration in the United States because of their unending temporary status.

### ***Conclusion***

On May 22, 2017, President Trump expressed intent to reduce the number of months that Haitian nationals may receive TPS coverage from eighteen (18) months to six (6) months. The Immigrant Justice Clinic at American University Washington College of Law supports resolution PR 22-525 because it seeks to put pressure on President Trump to extend, rather than limit, TPS.

In order to more precisely address the economic and humanitarian risks of perpetual legal instability, the Clinic also advises the Council to garner congressional support for a pathway to lawful permanent status for TPS recipients. TPS recipients actively follow the law and contribute to the economic and social well-being of our country. We now have a moral imperative to build upon TPS to reach full social integration. Thank you for your consideration.

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<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

<sup>12</sup> Menjívar, *supra*, at 1000.

<sup>13</sup> *Id.* at 1008.

November 2, 2017

Marybeth Onyeukwu  
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Good Afternoon Councilmembers,

I am a member of the Black Immigration Network - DC Chapter. The Black Immigration Network (BIN) is a national network of people and organizations serving black immigrant and African American communities who are focused on supporting fair and just immigration, as well as economic and social policies that benefit these communities and all communities of color in order to create a more just and equitable society.

I have been a DACA recipient for the last four years. I'm also beneficiary of DC Healthcare Alliance. And I understand very well the precarious nature of having temporary immigration status, particularly one that is subject to the whims of the political moments. Like other TPS recipients from El Salvador, Honduras, Somalia, South Sudan and Haiti. My own future is jeopardized by the xenophobic and frankly racist administration. And like other TPS recipients I would benefit from the DC Council standing up to this administration regardless of the xenophobic, bigot that occupies the White House.

DC calls itself a sanctuary city, which is an important, meaningful step first step. And this resolution calling on Congress to take legislative action around DACA and TPS aligns itself with that vision. Nevertheless, I implore this Council to take the next step in making that policy a reality for many vulnerable to the current administration. Some may have note that DC has already severed the cord between ICE and DC police through its immigration detainer policy. However, there are more steps that need to be taken. It is imperative that DC tax dollars are not being spent on the detention and eventual deportation of DC residents, which is in direct contradiction in what its residents stand for.

The DC Department of Corrections still has a standing practice of alerting ICE when a person is about to be release from jail. This is one of the ways immigrants in the city are being funneled into the detention and deportation machine. These are people who have already served their time, going through essentially a double punishment. This practice is a clear violation, if not the letter, but the spirit of DC's sanctuary city policy.

Furthermore, in "Operation Safe City" ICE targeted sanctuary cities such as the District and arrested and detained 14 DC residents about a month ago. Again, DC Council must step up in making sure these individuals are not lost in the deportation machine.

There are key steps this Council can take:

- Publicly denounce Operation Safe City
- Publicly demand all 14 residents to be released immediately
- Ensure all 14 residents have access to legal representation
- Continue to strengthen DC's sanctuary city policy

To be a sanctuary city must mean sanctuary for all. And that begins with today's resolution and continues severing all ties between DC government and ICE.

Thank you.

Testimony of Kreszentia M. Duer  
In Support of PR 22-448 and PR 22-25

Thank you to all Councilmembers for co-introducing these two resolutions.

My name is Kreszentia Duer, and I have been a resident of Ward 2 for 39 years. I am here on behalf of ACLU People Power-DC in support of PR 22-448 and PR 22-525.

Protecting DACA and Temporary Protected Status recipients is an economic and moral imperative.

Over its five-year history, DACA has enabled 800,000 young people to come forward, pass rigorous background checks, and obtain permission to live and work in the United States.

The Center for American Progress estimates that ending DACA would rob \$460 billion from the national GDP over the next decade. It would remove about 685,000 workers from the nation's workforce and force nearly 800,000 young people to leave the only country they have known.

The threat to TPS would affect an additional 300,000 immigrants whose countries of origin are still unsafe. TPS holders from El Salvador, Honduras and Haiti are particularly at risk. A report by the Immigrant Legal Resource Center spells out the costs:

- Deporting all Salvadoran, Honduran, and Haitian TPS holders would cost US taxpayers \$3.1 billion dollars; reduce Social Security and Medicare contributions by \$6.9 billion over a decade; and slash GDP by \$45.2 billion over a decade.
- The wholesale layoff of the employed TPS population from these three countries would saddle employers with \$967 million in turnover costs.

Moreover, construction companies in the Washington DC region estimate they would lose 20% of their skilled workforce if TPS ends.

As a sanctuary city, the District has committed to safeguard our vulnerable residents. Ending TPS would affect 35,000 people in the District. Ending DACA would hurt about 1,000 young people here who have applied for DACA. Ultimately, it is Congress that must provide a permanent fix, but passage of these two resolutions would be an important step in compelling Congress to act.

At this time, we also urge the Council to pass and fully and sustainably fund the Access to Justice for Immigrants Amendment, Bill 22-80. There is already an enormous need to provide representation for low income immigrants in the District. This need will immediately grow by 36,000 residents if TPS and DACA are ended.

**HONORABLE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRITO OF COLUMBIA,  
Committee of the Whole Public Hearing**

Atn Chairman Phil Mendelson

Atn Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie

**PR22-525, Sense of the Council in Support of Legislative  
Action to Protect Temporary Protected Status Resolution of  
2017**

**November 6, 2017**

My name is Santos Gonzales, citizen of the Republic of El Salvador and resident of the District of Columbia for more than 17 years.

With much pain and sadness I had to leave my country for reasons widely known, a war that devastated us completely and that caused thousands of us to forcibly leave. In addition, El Salvador has precarious situations of life because of the high rates of violence -- statistics that surpass the majority of countries in this world.

From the moment I arrived in Washington my goal was to work and rebuild my life. Thanks to Temporary Protected Status (TPS) my family and I have been able to live with dignity in a community that received us and of which today we are part.

In addition to working and looking after my family, I have joined organizations that advocate for social justice in our Washingtonian community, such as Workers United of Washington DC (Trabajadores Unidos de Washington DC). I have been a member since its beginnings.

In addition to allowing me to work legally, TPS (Temporary Protected Status) also gives us DIGNITY as human beings, allowing us to be visible in this society. I am proud to be a DC resident in my city Washington DC.

Losing TPS would be a fatal blow to the aspiration of my children who want to go to the university. If I lose TPS I would become an inhabitant living in the shadows of Washington DC. I would not have the opportunity to be a proud person who can travel the streets of this city that I is my home and my neighborhood where I know many people.

On my behalf, and that of my family and community and Trabajadores Unidos de Washington DC, I would like to thank the members of the District of Council City Council. Thank you for listening to me and for considering this resolution in support of TPS.

Thank you so much,

Santos Gonzales

(translated from Spanish)

## DC CITY COUNCIL

### The Committee of the Whole Public Hearing

Atn Chairman Phil Mendelson

Atn Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie

PR22-525, Sense of the Council in Support  
of Legislative Action to Protect Temporary  
Protected Status Resolution of 2017

#### TESTIMONY FROM ABEL HERNANDEZ

November 8, 2017

Honorable Councilmembers of the District Of Columbia

My name is Abel Hernández. I was born in El Salvador where I lived a difficult childhood, because as is known by all, my country was in civil war. In 1984 at age 17 I was forced to leave El Salvador to protect my life.

I arrived in Honduras where I lived for almost 10 years. I married there and had 3 children, but the precarious economic situation made me leave again in search of opportunities. In order to be able to support my wife and children, I went to the United States in 1999. In 2000, I obtained my Temporary Protection Status (TPS).

Ever since I arrived in the United States, I have worked very hard, because my hope is to reunite my family that had stayed in Honduras.

It's been 17 years, and I've always hoped for immigration reform to get my residency, but that has not happened. Today, after all this time, my Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is at risk.

During many years that I have lived in my city, I have worked in the community. Today I belong to the Workers United of Washington DC (Trabajadores Unidos de Washington DC), where together with other members we provide solutions to problems facing the immigrant community.

Today, I am asking the Honorable Council of Washington, DC to please ask the federal government not only to extend TPS, but also to enact immigration reform that will

benefit all of us who have contributed to and lived in this country in an honest, hardworking and peaceful manner.

Muchas Gracias.

Abel Hernandez  
DC resident



November 15, 2017

Committee of the Whole  
Council of the District of Columbia  
Suite 410  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004

To the Members of the Committee:

As employees of Capital Partners for Education (CPE), a non-profit mentoring organization for low-income students that has been operating in the District of Columbia for twenty-five years, we would like to thank the District Councilmembers for co-introducing this important resolution. We are hereby issuing supporting testimony in favor of PR22-448 and PR22-525.

CPE's mission is to provide low-income students in the D.C. area with the skills and experiences that they need to successfully complete college and to excel in the workforce. Each CPE student is matched with a college-educated volunteer mentor, who with staff assistance helps guide that student through the college application process; when students enroll in college, CPE and their mentors continue to provide them with coaching for their future careers. CPE currently serves over 375 students, all residents of the District, Maryland, and Virginia, with most concentrated in Wards 7 and 8. CPE's students and their parents often come to see the student's mentor as a part of their family, and we at CPE likewise see our students as part of an extended CPE family.

We are inspired to support PR22-448 because the protection provided by DACA is crucial to so many of the members of that CPE family. DACA permits students to legally work and study in the United States who might otherwise be subject to deportation.

Representative of just how important that protection is are the experiences of a student, who we will here call Luis. (To protect the student's identity, "Luis" is not the student's real name, but the details of his story are all true.) Raised for most of his life in the District and a graduate of D.C. public charter schools, Luis is currently a sophomore in college in the District studying architecture. He one day hopes to become a licensed architect. Like many students CPE has supported over the years, Luis did not learn that he and his family were undocumented until he was applying to college, and found that he did not have any of the necessary paperwork to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

As a college access and success organization, CPE devotes considerable resources to helping students to understand – and to seek out – financial aid opportunities, including FAFSA. Before DACA took effect, it was at this point that the hopes that many CPE students had placed in attending college were suddenly turned upside down. Unable to qualify for the single largest source of financial aid nationwide, CPE's low-income students were forced to reconsider whether they could even attend college, to say nothing of what their uncertain legal status meant for the rest of their futures. Fortunately, the protections put in place by DACA meant that Luis could safely continue his studies. Although he was still unable to qualify for federal financial aid, he received much support from the city that had raised him, in the form of numerous local scholarships. Should DACA be revoked, however, Luis would face possible deportation midway through his junior year of college. Affirming PR22-448



would be a sign that the District continues to offer Luis the same support that it has always shown him.

Luis's story is but one example of the many stories that CPE has encountered in its twenty-five year history. Learning late of their undocumented status, students have explored having documented siblings formally adopt them. Students have had to weigh whether they would continue their studies in the United States or return abroad with their families should their families be deported. At eighteen, students should be choosing the college that is the best fit for them – these other, graver choices are ones that no student who has grown up in the District should be forced to make.

CPE has recently undergone a large-scale program refinement to identify the areas where its programming is most effective and can be most consistently applied. Faced with cases like Luis's, CPE is forced to wholly rearrange its conventional programming; lessons about FAFSA completion lose their meaning, and other avenues to college access must be tried. Devising sudden strategies when students learn – only at the eleventh hour – of their undocumented status places obvious strain on an organization with limited resources. Yet we remain committed to serving students like Luis because we are convinced that it is the right – indeed only – thing to do. We urge the District Council to make a similar commitment. On behalf of its students and their families, CPE encourages the Council to adopt PR22-448 and PR22-525.

Sincerely,

**Brandon White**  
Chief Program Officer  
Capital Partners for Education

**Statement for the Record of Kids in Need of Defense**

on

PR 22-448 Sense of the Council in Support of Legislative Action  
to Protect Dreamers Resolution of 2017

and

PR 22-525, Sense of the Council in Support of Legislative Action  
to Protect Temporary Protected Status Resolution of 2017

before

The Committee of the Whole  
Council of the District of Columbia

November 16, 2017

Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) respectfully submits this statement for the record in support of legislative action to protect Dreamers and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) recipients. We would like to thank Chairman Mendelson and members of the Committee for their leadership in addressing the needs of these vulnerable populations in this time of great uncertainty for immigrant communities nationwide and throughout Washington, DC.

KIND stands by thousands of Dreamers and TPS recipients whose lives have been uprooted by the abrupt termination of DACA and the uncertain future of TPS. We strongly support the passage of legislation to protect these individuals, who have made immeasurable and important contributions to this country they call home. We believe that this relief can and should be enacted swiftly and without resort to deals or trades that falsely condition the protection of these groups on the elimination of protections for other vulnerable populations, including unaccompanied child immigrants and refugees.

### **Background**

Since 2014, more than 200,000 children have arrived alone to the United States. Many of these children are fleeing grave violence, including gender-based violence and human trafficking, in their home countries--the majority from Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador. When detected by immigration officials, these children are placed in court proceedings directed at deporting them from the U.S. More than 60 percent will face immigration proceedings in court without legal representation to assist them in navigating some of our nation's most complex laws. KIND was established to address this critical gap in representation and works to ensure that no refugee or immigrant child faces immigration court alone.

As a national organization, Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) works in partnership with over 477 law firms, corporate legal departments, law schools, and bar associations, which provide pro bono representation to unaccompanied children referred to KIND for assistance in their deportation proceedings. KIND has received more than 14,500 child referrals since we opened our doors in 2009, and trained over 20,400 pro bono attorneys.

KIND also helps children who are returning to their home countries through deportation or voluntary departure to do so safely and to reintegrate into their home communities. Through our reintegration pilot project in Guatemala and Honduras, we place children with our local nongovernmental organization partners, which provide vital social services including family reunification, school enrollment, skills training, and counseling. KIND advocates to change law, policy, and practices to improve the protection of unaccompanied children in the United States, and is working to build a stronger regional protection framework throughout Central America and Mexico. We educate policymakers, the media, and the broader public about the violence that is driving children out of the Northern Triangle and their need for protection.

### **The Protection of Dreamers**

In September 2017, the Administration terminated Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), cruelly exposing nearly 800,000 individuals who came to the U.S. as children to potential deportation. Since that time, Dreamers, their families, and their communities have

experienced great anxiety and uncertainty as policymakers and the Administration discuss potential legislative remedies to protect these vibrant and impressive young people.

KIND strongly supports the swift passage of the DREAM Act to extend lasting protection to those who for all but paperwork are Americans. We are deeply concerned, however, about proposals that condition support for such legislation on the elimination of protections for other vulnerable groups, including unaccompanied children and asylum seekers. Protection of the most vulnerable should never be contingent on politics.

In announcing the termination of DACA, the Trump Administration falsely asserted that the program had “contributed to a surge of unaccompanied minors on the southern border that yielded terrible humanitarian consequences.”<sup>1</sup> In fact, it is grave violence and threats to their lives—not the promise of deferred action—that have driven thousands of Central American children to seek protection in the United States.

Most unaccompanied children arrive at our nation’s Southern border after fleeing extreme violence in Central America. Increasing numbers of these children, particularly girls and LGBT youth, are fleeing gang or sexual and gender-based violence from which their countries cannot protect them.<sup>2</sup> The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has reported that the majority of children arriving at the border have valid claims for protection under international law.<sup>3</sup>

Widespread and ongoing violence has compelled children to seek protection in the United States for more than a decade, with numbers beginning to rise well before DACA’s implementation in 2012. To date, children continue to flee Central America in large numbers, as the root causes of their flight, including pervasive violence by gangs and narcotraffickers and a lack of protection, have not been resolved. Legislative proposals that undermine protections for these children in the name of other immigrants who arrived as children cruelly sideline the protection of both groups and do nothing to stem the humanitarian crisis at our nation’s border.

We support the Council in its call for legislative action to extend protection to hundreds of thousands of DACA recipients and Dreamers, and urge the swift passage of a clean DREAM Act, free of tradeoffs that would threaten the well-being and safety of other vulnerable groups.

### **Temporary Protected Status**

Temporary Protected Status has afforded essential relief to thousands in the wake of devastating natural disasters and conflict. Nearly 300,000 people currently depend on this protection to access safety and stability that are unavailable in their home countries. Over the course of

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<sup>1</sup> Dep’t of Justice, *Attorney General Sessions Delivers Remarks on DACA* (Sept. 5, 2017), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/speech/attorney-general-sessions-delivers-remarks-daca>.

<sup>2</sup> See KIND & Human Rights Center Fray Matias de Cordova, *Childhood Cut Short: Sexual and Gender-based Violence against Central American Migrant and Refugee Children* (June 2017).

<sup>3</sup> U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, *Children on the Run: Unaccompanied Children Leaving Central America and Mexico and the Need for International Protection* (Mar. 2014).

decades, these individuals have become vibrant and essential members of communities across the country, and have created lives, families, and businesses.

The Administration's recent termination of TPS for Nicaragua, with a 12-month extension, exposes nearly 2,500 individuals to deportation to a region still recovering from natural disasters and ongoing violence. With the official decision on their own country's TPS designation overdue, nearly 57,000 Hondurans have received an automatic six-month extension, but face great uncertainty about what is to come. These decisions, and the possible termination of TPS for other countries, including Haiti and El Salvador, threaten to further destabilize families whose very vulnerability TPS was intended to address.

Without TPS protection, hundreds of thousands of individuals will face possible deportation and the loss of work authorization in the United States. Families will be torn apart, leaving emotional and economic devastation in communities nationwide. Individuals returning to their countries, some after decades away, will become extremely vulnerable as a result of their perceived wealth and lacking opportunities in the region.

The return of scores of people to Central America poses grave challenges for nations already experiencing staggering violence and economic instability. As a growing internal displacement crisis drives thousands from their homes, increasing numbers of people will have no choice but to leave their countries in search of safety and the stability in the United States.

Many TPS holders are parents or sponsors of former unaccompanied children or resettled child refugees. They are providing care and custody for thousands of children our government has deemed as needing to remain in the United States. Returning these children's support systems would put them in danger and risk the safety they have found in this country.

El Salvador and Honduras currently have two of the highest homicide and femicide rates in the world. Despite alarming rates of violence, the governments of these countries are doing little to nothing to protect victims of violence – especially women and children. Staggering impunity rates mean that less than 10 percent of sexual- and gender-based violence cases will result in a conviction. Every day KIND hears stories of children who have fled unimaginable violence in El Salvador and Honduras and have come to the U.S. for protection. We urge the U.S. government to provide ongoing funding and resources to address the root causes of violence throughout the Northern Triangle.

Last month, at a regional convening in Honduras, the United States shared its commitment to addressing the unabating violence and lack of protection that force migration from the region. The elimination of TPS protection would run counter to these efforts and deepen the humanitarian crises driving children and families to flee their homes and countries in search of protection.

KIND strongly supports the extension of TPS for Honduras, El Salvador, and Haiti as well as legislation that offers enduring protection to TPS beneficiaries, who have created lives and contributed so much to communities in the United States in wake of devastation in their home countries. We thank the Council for its ongoing support of protection for the most vulnerable.

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10 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

11 22-525

12 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

13 \_\_\_\_\_  
14 To declare the sense of the Council that the United States Congress should act immediately to  
15 extend Temporary Protected Status to foreign nationals whose countries are affected by  
16 ongoing armed conflicts, environmental disasters, and extraordinary life-threatening  
17 conditions.

18  
19 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
20 resolution may be cited as the “Sense of the Council in Support of Legislative Action to Protect  
21 Temporary Protected Status Resolution of 2017”.

22 Sec. 2. The Council finds that:

23 (1) In 1990, the United States created an immigration status, known as  
24 Temporary Protected Status (“TPS”), for certain foreign nationals. Individuals with this  
25 immigration status are permitted to stay in the United States for set period of time and are  
26 allowed to work, attend school, and obtain a driver’s license.

27 (2) In order for foreign nationals from a particular country to obtain TPS, the  
28 country must be temporarily experiencing ongoing armed conflicts, recovering from an  
29 environmental disaster, or facing extraordinary life-threatening conditions.

30 (3) A country’s initial TPS designation shall be no less than six months but no

1 more than 18 months. After the initial designation, the United States Department of Homeland  
2 Security (DHS) may extend a country's TPS designation, with many countries having a TPS  
3 designation for several years.

4 (4) Since 1991, the United States has granted TPS to foreign nationals from 13  
5 countries including Somalia, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Haiti, Syria, Sudan, South  
6 Sudan, Yemen, Nepal, Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.

7 (5) Approximately 325,000 individuals have benefitted from TPS and over 40,000  
8 TPS beneficiaries reside in the Washington, DC area.

9 (6) On May 21, 2017, TPS designations for Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone  
10 were terminated. In addition, on May 22, 2017, the Trump Administration announced that it  
11 would only extend Haiti's TPS designation, which was set to expire on July 22, 2017, by six  
12 months to January 22, 2018. Unless the Trump Administration or the United States Congress  
13 takes immediate action, 50,000 Haitian foreign nationals may be forced to return to a country  
14 that still has not recovered from a devastating earthquake in 2010.

15 (7) Further, on November 6, 2017, the Trump Administration indicated that it  
16 was terminating Nicaragua's TPS designation and failed to determine whether Honduras's TPS  
17 designation should be extended. This failure means that Honduras's TPS designation will expire  
18 on July 5, 2018 unless action is taken to extend it, potentially requiring 57,000 Honduran foreign  
19 nationals to return to a country that has experienced several environmental disasters and lacks  
20 sufficient housing, food, and transportation infrastructure.

21 (8) El Salvador's TPS designation is set to expire on March 9, 2018. Almost  
22 60% of TPS beneficiaries are from El Salvador, and over 32,000 TPS beneficiaries reside in the  
23 Washington, DC area. El Salvador was granted a TPS designation in 2001 because of multiple

1 earthquakes, and as recently as September 10, 2016, DHS determined that El Salvador still has  
2 not recovered from these earthquakes and because of this, it is still not safe for Salvadoran  
3 foreign nationals to return.

4 (9) TPS beneficiaries have contributed to the growth and prosperity of the United  
5 States' economy, with Haitian, Salvadoran, and Honduran TPS beneficiaries alone adding \$4.5  
6 billion annually to the country's gross domestic product.

7 (10) Over 20% of TPS beneficiaries were under the age of 16 when they were  
8 brought to the United States, more half of the Salvadorian and Haitian TPS beneficiaries have  
9 resided in the United States for 20 years or more, and TPS beneficiaries from Honduras, El  
10 Salvador, and Haiti alone have 273,000 children who are United States citizens.

11 (11) Within the next 12 months, TPS designations for eight of the ten countries  
12 that currently have it are set to expire. Moreover, three of these eight expire within the next four  
13 months. Given these impending deadlines, it is crucial that the United States Congress act  
14 immediately to protect TPS beneficiaries.

15 Sec. 3. It is the sense of the Council that the United States Congress should act  
16 immediately to pass legislation that protects TPS beneficiaries.

17 Sec. 4. The Secretary to the Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of  
18 this resolution, upon its adoption, to the Office of the President of the United States, the Leaders  
19 of both the Democratic and Republican party of the United States House of Representatives and  
20 of the United States Senate, the Attorney General of the United States, and the Office of the  
21 Mayor of the District of Columbia.

22 Sec. 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.