

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2020

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
Chairwoman
Homeland Security Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
Ranking Member
Homeland Security Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Roybal-Allard and Ranking Member Fleischmann:

As you consider the Homeland Security Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2021, we respectfully request that you include language designating an initial, five-year Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for the countries of Venezuela, the Bahamas, and Guatemala. TPS represents a historically bipartisan tool to satisfy our nation's international commitment to non-refoulement, maintain and promote regional stability in designated countries, and enable foreign nationals and their U.S. citizen children to contribute to our nation's economic engine. Specifically, we ask that you incorporate the following language:


The foreign states of Venezuela, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, and Guatemala are designated under section 244(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act for a period of 5 years beginning on the date of enactment of this provision. A national of such foreign state (or in the case of an alien having no nationality, a person who last habitually resided in such state) shall be eligible for status under section 244 of the Act if such alien has continuously resided in the United States since the date of enactment of this act and otherwise meets the requirements of section 244(c) other than subparagraph (1)(A)(iv) of such section.

This language would protect approximately 814,000 nationals from these countries. TPS provides employment authorization and protection from deportation for foreign nationals. Further, TPS ensures the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) does not send people back to dangerous and extraordinary conditions where their safety and well-being would be at risk. During the 116th Congress, the U.S. House of Representatives has already expressed broad based support for and passed legislation designating TPS for Venezuela, the Bahamas, and Guatemala. However,

this Administration has failed to designate a single country for TPS and aggressively moved to enforce arbitrary restrictions.

In light of this extensive support and existing country conditions that warrant TPS, we encourage you to include language designating these countries for a five-year initial grant of TPS in the Homeland Security Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2021. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress

List of Signatories

Adriano Espaillat

Mary Gay Scanlon

Sylvia R. Garcia

David Trone

Jimmy Gomez