



## August 2019: Enact a Path to Permanent Status for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) Holders

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) are forms of relief from deportation for immigrants who cannot safely return to their countries of origin. Much like the related — but distinct — programs of asylum and refugee resettlement, TPS and DED help the U.S. government to honor its moral obligation to provide safe haven to people in danger.

Since August 2017, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has moved to cancel TPS for citizens of Sudan, Nicaragua, Haiti, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nepal. These decisions directly jeopardize the status of nearly 400,000 people who have been living lawfully in the United States. Many of them have been building their lives here for decades, with legal status that has allowed them to work, buy homes, build their own businesses and contribute to their communities. An estimated 273,000 U.S.-citizen children have at least one parent who is a TPS holder.<sup>1</sup> If the sudden cancellation of their status is allowed to move forward, all of these people will become vulnerable to deportation and separation from their families and communities.

The consequences of TPS cancellation are grave for everyone. TPS and DED holders contribute to our shared communities as parents, employers, business owners, workers and friends. They pay an estimated \$4.6 billion a year in state and federal taxes, according to a recent report by the National TPS Alliance and the Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration, which also estimated that the U.S. economy as a whole will lose \$35.2 billion in GDP if TPS and DED holders are forced to leave.<sup>2</sup>

The remittances that TPS beneficiaries send home are also often critical to sustaining the economies of their home countries. In El Salvador, remittances account for more than 17% of GDP, with the vast majority coming from relatives in the United States.<sup>3</sup> In Honduras, they account for 18% of GDP.<sup>4</sup> Cutting off this economic lifeline would be devastating for these countries, and ultimately for the security and prosperity of our shared region.

- 1** In light of this, we urge you to co-sponsor and pass the Safe Environment from Countries Under Repression and Emergency Act (S.879), which would create a path to permanent residency and ultimately citizenship for TPS and DED holders, who have more than earned the right to be recognized as permanent members of our society.
- 2** We also support efforts to pair this legislation with the Dream Act of 2019 (S.874) or to expand it to include DACA recipients alongside TPS and DED holders. In this regard, the American Dream and Promise Act (H.R. 6) recently passed in the House offers an excellent model.

1 Robert Warren and Donald Kerwin, "A Statistical and Demographic Profile of TPS Populations," *Journal on Migration and Human Security*, Volume 5 Number 3 (2017): 577-592.

2 Dalia Gonzalez, "Promising Returns: How Embracing Immigrants with Temporary Protected Status can Contribute to Family Stability, Economic Growth, and Fiscal Health," Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration at the University of South Carolina, Center for American Progress, and the National TPS Alliance, April 2019.  
[https://dornsife.usc.edu/assets/sites/731/docs/Promising\\_Returns\\_April\\_2019\\_TPS\\_Brief.pdf](https://dornsife.usc.edu/assets/sites/731/docs/Promising_Returns_April_2019_TPS_Brief.pdf)

3 Jayesh Rashod et al. Extending Temporary Protected Status for El Salvador: Country Conditions and U.S. Legal Requirements, Center for Latin American & Latino Studies (CLALS) Working Paper Series, No. 17, 2017-18.  
[https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=3091249](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3091249)

4 Jayesh Rathod et al., Extending Temporary Protected Status for Honduras: Country Conditions and U.S. Legal Requirements, Center for Latin American & Latino Studies (CLALS) Working Paper Series, No. 16, 2017-18.  
[https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=3065774##](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3065774##)