



The Honorable Rex Tillerson
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Elaine Duke
Acting Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20528

November 2, 2017

Dear Acting Secretary Duke and Secretary Tillerson:

On behalf of the approximately 57,000 Honduran and 2,550 Nicaraguan recipients of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) living in the U.S., we urge you to extend the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Honduras and Nicaragua before it expires on January 5th, 2018.

Our cities stand to lose greatly if TPS designations for Honduras or Nicaragua are terminated. Honduran and Nicaraguan TPS recipients contribute to our communities and economies with the help of TPS. According to a report from the Center for American Progress, the U.S. would lose an estimated \$31.3 billion from its GDP over a decade without Honduran workers who hold TPS. TPS holders are our neighbors, our coworkers, local small business owners, and members of our religious communities. TPS recipients participate in the labor force at high rates, own homes and hold mortgages, and are long-time residents of this country with citizen spouses and children. Indeed, more than half of all TPS recipients have lived here for more than two decades. These productive members of society are also among those that have submitted to the highest levels of security screening and vetting. In order to remain eligible, TPS holders undergo criminal background checks every 18 months.

Moreover, current conditions in Honduras and Nicaragua clearly demonstrate that neither country is in a position to safely absorb thousands of people. We cannot conscientiously send members of our communities to danger. Since 1998, when Hurricane Mitch killed 10,000 individuals across Central America devastating the region and giving rise to TPS designations for Honduras and Nicaragua, these countries have faced successive natural disasters, which have in turn exacerbated public health crises, economic decline, and public safety concerns.

Our Honduran and Nicaraguan communities have called upon us, their local leaders, to help ensure that they and their family members are not forced to return to conditions that will endanger their lives and livelihoods, in countries that simply cannot safely receive them.



CITIES *for* ACTION

As you render a decision on the futures of Honduran and Nicaraguan TPS recipients, we offer a pragmatic perspective informed by our position as local government leaders. The forced departure of tens of thousands of Honduran and Nicaraguan TPS recipients from our communities would deprive us of hardworking, upstanding members of our societies, would needlessly tear apart fathers and mothers from their U.S. born children, and would subject these families to unstable and unsafe conditions in countries that cannot absorb them.

Sincerely,

Ed Pawlowski, Mayor of Allentown, PA

William A. Bell, Mayor of Birmingham, AL

Martin J. Walsh, Mayor of Boston, MA

E. Denise Simmons, Mayor of Cambridge, MA

Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor of Carrboro, NC

Thomas G. Ambrosino, City Manager of Chelsea, MA

Rahm Emanuel, Mayor of Chicago, IL

Mary Casillas Salas, Mayor of Chula Vista, CA

Clay Jenkins, County Judge of Dallas County, TX

Riley H. Rogers, Mayor of Dolton, IL

William V. "Bill" Bell, Mayor of Durham, NC

Carlo DeMaria, Mayor of Everett, MA

Karen Freeman-Wilson, Mayor of Gary, IN

Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles, CA

Paul R. Soglin, Mayor of Madison, WI

Tomas Regalado, Mayor of Miami, FL

Isiah Leggett, County Executive of Montgomery County, MD

Megan Barry, Mayor of Nashville, TN

Bill de Blasio, Mayor of New York City, NY

Libby Schaaf, Mayor of Oakland, CA

Buddy Dyer, Mayor of Orlando, FL

Jim Kenney, Mayor of Philadelphia, PA

Adrian O. Mapp, Mayor of Plainfield, NJ



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Rushern L. Baker, III, County Executive of Prince George's County, MD

Liz Lempert, Mayor of Princeton, NJ

Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor of Saint Paul, MN

Ron Nirenberg, Mayor of San Antonio, TX

Ted Winterer, Mayor of Santa Monica, CA

Stephanie A. Miner, Mayor of Syracuse, NY

Sarah Eckhardt, County Executive of Travis County, TX

Muriel Bowser, Mayor of Washington, DC

Jim Provenza, County Supervisor of Yolo County, CA