

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 12, 2018

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Office of the Speaker
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan:

We write to respectfully request that the House move quickly and bring legislation to the floor to provide protection to Temporary Protected Status (TPS) beneficiaries before they are required to leave the country.

As you know, TPS beneficiaries live and work legally in the United States and were welcomed here in light of atrocities and hardships they faced in their countries of origin. Some TPS holders have been here legally for 20 years and now contribute to our workforce, own homes, have families and children who were born here, and are part of our communities. Many of their home countries remain unable to guarantee their safe return and integration. Their forced removal would not only would have a negative humanitarian impact on the estimated 317,000 individuals currently benefiting from the TPS designation who live and work in the U.S.—and their US citizen family members—but it would also have negative ramifications for the labor force and U.S. economy.

In fact, TPS recipients have become an integral part of our nation's economy—especially and including the construction industry, which could lose a significant percentage of its well-trained workforce. According to the Center for Migration Studies, among TPS beneficiaries from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti, the work force participation rate is over 80 percent and over 50,000 TPS holders from these three countries work in the construction industry. These workers build American homes and infrastructure, and contribute to key growth sectors of the U.S. economy. It is estimated that termination of the TPS program could result in nearly \$1 billion in employer costs related to turnover and ending TPS will have a devastating impact on the construction industry in particular.

In the past year, a number of countries, including Haiti, Nicaragua, and Sudan, have had their TPS designations terminated, affecting 46,000 Haitian, 2,550 Nicaraguan and 1,040 Sudanese immigrants. On January 8, 2018, the Department of Homeland Security issued its decision to terminate TPS for El Salvador, affecting 195,000 people TPS beneficiaries and their families, including an estimated 192,000 children who are U.S. citizens.

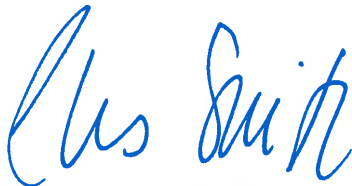
This year, several U.S. states were hit with hurricanes, and fires are burning in California. To rebuild and recover from these disasters, the construction industry must be able to

retain a qualified, experienced workforce. As America seeks to rebuild its vital infrastructure, it cannot stand to lose up to 100,000 well-trained workers in the next 18 months because of terminations of nations' TPS designations.

Organizations as varied as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), Associated General Contractors (AGC), National Association of Homebuilders (NAHB), Leading Builders of America, a number of labor unions representing workers in the construction industry including AFL-CIO, Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA), and others, the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops have all called on Congress to act now to save TPS.

The TPS program has had Republican support from its inception in 1990 when it was signed into law by then-President George H.W. Bush. As Republicans who support humanitarian relief for current TPS beneficiaries and are concerned about the economic impact this will take, in particular the impact on American infrastructure, we ask that you bring legislation to the House floor to protect TPS beneficiaries and ensure that American companies retain skilled workers.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress




CARLOS CURBELO
Member of Congress



MIKE COFFMAN
Member of Congress



JEFF DENHAM
Member of Congress



RYAN A. COSTELLO
Member of Congress



BRIAN FITZPATRICK
Member of Congress



PETER T. KING
Member of Congress



TOM MACARTHUR
Member of Congress



MIA LOVE
Member of Congress



ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
Member of Congress



DAVID G. VALADAO
Member of Congress