

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 14, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Democratic Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer,

We urge you to include automatic employment authorization document (EAD) extensions for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders in the next coronavirus relief package. The Trump administration has revoked or declined to renew TPS for over 400,000 TPS recipients and they should not face uncertainty regarding their immigration status or ability to work in the midst of a global pandemic.<sup>1</sup>

We introduced the Safe Environment from Countries Under Repression and Emergency (SECURE) Act in 2019 to provide TPS recipients the ability to apply for permanent resident status and be on a pathway to citizenship. We recognize the important contributions of TPS recipients and their families in their communities every day across the nation. Automatically extending TPS EADs during the pandemic will help TPS recipients feel a sense of stability while we work toward our larger goal of creating a pathway to citizenship for these longtime residents of the United States.

There are over 400,000 TPS recipients in the United States and the majority have lived in the United States for over two decades. They have started businesses and families and are integral members of their communities. Approximately 131,000 TPS recipients from El Salvador, Haiti and Honduras are essential critical infrastructure workers.<sup>2</sup> These TPS recipients are critical to our pandemic response. They are putting themselves at risk to ensure the safety and health of our

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<sup>1</sup> Jill Wilson, "Review of Temporary Protected Status: Overview and Current Issues," Congressional Research Service, last modified April 1, 2020, <https://www.crs.gov/Reports/RS20844?source=search&guid=772fe34d1bb744e9a9508057c2572f88&index=2>.

<sup>2</sup> "RELEASE: More Than 130,000 TPS Holders Are Serving as Essential Workers During the Coronavirus Crisis." Center for American Progress, last modified April 14, 2020, <https://www.americanprogress.org/press/release/2020/04/14/483197/release-130000-tps-holders-serving-essential-workers-coronavirus-crisis/>.

nation. TPS employment authorization documents should be automatically extended during the pandemic in order to minimize disruption while these essential workers help our nation through this crisis.

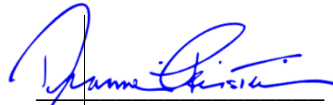
Over three months ago, the House passed the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act which included these crucial EAD extensions and we urge you to include similar language in any future negotiated package. We look forward to working with you to ensure that TPS recipients and their families do not have to worry about their immigration status.

Sincerely,



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Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



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Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



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Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator