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COMMITTEE ON STEERING AND POLICY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

July 7, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE
Washington, DC 20528

The Temporary Protected Status (TPS) program has been highly successful, providing relief and stability to over 170,000 individuals who have fled El Salvador. The current TPS designation granted to migrants from El Salvador in 2001 has protected these individuals from the effects of two devastating earthquakes, gang violence, and political instability. The Trump Administration must act to swiftly extend the TPS designation for the over 170,000 Salvadorans who rely on TPS by July 11, 2026, which is at least 60 days before the expiration on September 9, 2026.

As you know, TPS holders from El Salvador have lived continuously in the United States for at least 25 years and have undergone rigorous security and background checks as part of the TPS process. Approximately 20 percent of Salvadoran TPS holders arrived in the United States at age 15 or younger. These TPS holders have spent the majority of their lives in the United States, with many likely having no solid connection to El Salvador. If an extension is not granted, these individuals will be forced to go to a country that has been under a self-imposed “*State of Exception*” since 2022. Under El Salvador’s “*State of Exception*,” certain constitutionally protected civil liberties have been suspended, including the rights to free association and assembly, due process, and access to legal counsel. These TPS holders could be subject to these human rights violations.

TPS holders are deeply woven into the fabric of communities across the country as small business owners, public servants, and essential workers. The potential disruption in TPS status for over 170,000 Salvadorans will cause significant harm to local economies and communities around the country. Salvadoran TPS holders contribute an estimated \$5.4 billion to every corner of the U.S. economy. Salvadoran TPS holders have almost 90 percent participation rate in the U.S. labor force, with 10 percent being self-employed small business owners.

In addition, approximately 277,000 U.S. citizens live with Salvadoran TPS holders, including children, partners, and other family members. 150,000 U.S. citizen children depend on a TPS holder to put food on the table and a roof over their heads. A disruption in the TPS program will cause further labor shortages, rising prices, and economic harm to all families across the country.

It is essential that the Trump Administration extend the TPS designation for Salvadoran migrants by July 11, 2026, which is at least 60 days before the expiration on September 9, 2026, for 18 months. This extension will have a tremendous positive impact on families and local economies.

Our country has a long, beautiful history of providing refuge to migrants coming from dire circumstances caused by natural disasters, armed conflict, or political instability. Migrants have been the foundation of America's success, and the extension of the TPS will provide short-term relief and the opportunity to continue contributing to our nation's success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Luz M. Rivas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Luz M. Rivas

Member of Congress

California's Twenty-Ninth District