

JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER  
3RD DISTRICT, SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

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AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-1602

March 29, 2018

The Honorable Kirstjen M. Nielsen, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
301 7<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Mail Stop 0020  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Nielsen,

In recent weeks, I have received inquiries from my constituents regarding the status of current beneficiaries of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) from El Salvador. On behalf of my constituents, I respectfully request a status update on the TPS program for beneficiaries from El Salvador.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Member of Congress

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2018 MAR 29 PM 2:52



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

April 16, 2018

The Honorable Jaime Herrera Beutler  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Herrera Beutler:

Thank you for your March 29, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

I appreciate your interest in the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for El Salvador. The Secretary of Homeland Security's authority to designate a country for TPS and extend or terminate a country's existing designation is based upon specific statutory criteria. *See* Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) § 244(b). U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is principally responsible for advising the Secretary on TPS issues and implementing the program.

At least 60 days before the current expiration date for a TPS designation, the Secretary must review conditions in the foreign country and, after consultation with other appropriate federal agencies, determine whether the statutory conditions for TPS continue to be met. Under the INA, if the Secretary determines that the conditions for designation are no longer met with respect to a country, the Secretary is required to terminate the designation. *See* INA § 244(b)(1),(3).

Secretary Nielsen decided to terminate the TPS designation for El Salvador after considering information from several U.S. Government sources, with a delay of 18 months to allow for an orderly transition before the designation terminates on September 9, 2019. The Department of Homeland Security is committed to an orderly transition that will allow time for El Salvador to prepare for the return and reintegration of its citizens. USCIS will work with the State Department and the government of El Salvador to help inform relevant stakeholders in-country and in the United States to ensure an orderly return and reintegration of El Salvador's citizens. Additional details on the Secretary's decision and the process for current El Salvador TPS beneficiaries to renew their work authorization documentation until TPS terminates on September 9, 2019, can be found on the USCIS website and in the notice that was published in the *Federal Register* on January 18, 2018.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. Should you require any additional assistance, please have your staff contact the USCIS Office of Legislative Affairs at (202) 272-1940.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "2FAC".

L. Francis Cissna  
Director