



Salvadoran American Chamber Of Commerce, Inc.

P.O. Box 173, Bay Shore, NY 11706
Telephone: (866) 879-1166 info@salvacomLi.com

Honorable Kirstjen M. Nielsen
Secretary of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane SW
Washington, D.C. 20528

SCANNED/RECEIVED
BY ESEC
2018 JAN 18 PM 2:14
January 02, 2018

Dear Secretary Nielsen:

On behalf of the Salvadoran American Chamber of Commerce, our members, their families, and the Salvadoran community in general, we would like to respectfully request an extension on the Temporary Protective Status (TPS) for El Salvador until a permanent solution is found.

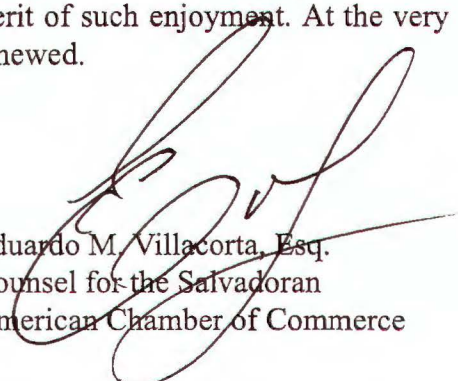
Currently, there are 192,000 United States citizen children whose parents are Salvadoran TPS holders. These children will suffer extreme financial and emotional hardship if TPS is canceled. Please think about the amount of emotional distress being put on 190,000 families that directly benefit from this program. Heads of Household are about to lose their jobs and lose everything they have worked so hard for at the stroke of a pen.

Any reasonable person would agree that the word "temporary" stopped having any meaning after this program has been renewed for sixteen consecutive years. Remember that immigrants have been part of this country's history since its inception. Nine immigrants signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

These Salvadorans, if they can still be called that, are willing to fight, work hard, and pay taxes for a country to which they are not citizens. They have embraced the American values and have assimilated to their communities. If TPS is cancelled, history will look back at such decision as senseless and cruel.

Please recognize these people in yourself or in your ancestors. Honor the words of George Washington when he said that "we shall welcome to a participation of all our rights and privileges to all nations and all religions, if by decency and proper conduct they appear to merit the enjoyment." Salvadoran TPS holders have earned the merit of such enjoyment. At the very least, they deserve to have their work authorization permits renewed.

Sincerely,


Eduardo M. Villacorta, Esq.
Counsel for the Salvadoran
American Chamber of Commerce



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

March 8, 2018

Eduardo M. Villacorta, Esq.
Salvadoran American Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
P.O. Box 173
Bay Shore, New York 11706

Dear Mr. Villacorta:

Thank you for your January 2, 2018 letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). 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 to 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. DHS 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.

Mr. Eduardo M. Villacorta

Page 2

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. Francis Cissna". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

L. Francis Cissna
Director