

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 29, 2018

Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
300 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20024

Secretary Rex W. Tillerson
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20520

SCANNED/RECEIVED
BY EXEC SEC
2018 APR -2 AM 11:56

Dear Secretary Nielsen and Secretary Tillerson,

We urge the administration to extend the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation granted to Nepalese nationals living in the United States after the devastating April 2015 earthquake that killed 9,000 individuals and left many thousands more homeless and displaced. Shortly after the earthquake, 45 U.S. Representatives signed a letter requesting a TPS designation for these nationals, and a designation was promptly granted. As Nepal continues to rebuild, we request an extension of the current designation before it expires on June 24, 2018.

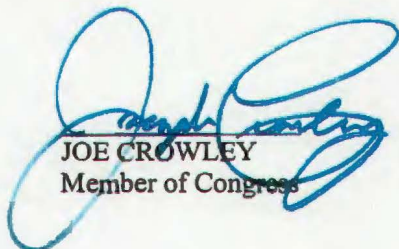
The 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Nepal in April 2015 not only resulted in a substantial loss of life, but also devastated Nepal's infrastructure—destroying large swaths of the country from the capital of Kathmandu to the rural areas. The earthquake destroyed more than half a million homes, and forced nearly 650,000 families to seek shelter. Even today, as the country works to rebuild its infrastructure and restore housing to previous levels, the situation remains tenuous. As recently as last summer, more than two-thirds of those affected were still living in temporary shelters. An extension of the TPS designation for Nepalese nationals in the United States would help the Nepalese government focus limited resources on rebuilding efforts and prevent individuals from being returned to uncertain and potentially unsafe conditions.

As you know, TPS is designed to grant protection for foreign nationals living in the United States when extraordinary circumstances make it difficult for them to return to their home countries. Current law dictates that TPS may be granted when there are, "conditions in the foreign state that prevent... nationals of the state from returning to the state in safety." We believe that the lingering damage in Nepal and the challenges its government faces meet these criteria, and that extending the TPS designation would help the Nepalese government restore housing, safety, and stability to its people.

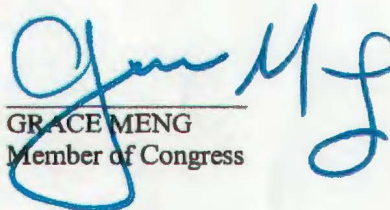
Nepalese nationals in the United States are living in a state of uncertainty, not knowing whether they will be able to safely return home. Given the strong support that we and our colleagues expressed in our previous letters, we urge you to act compassionately and allow these nationals to remain in the United States until the conditions in their home country are further improved.

We thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



JOE CROWLEY
Member of Congress



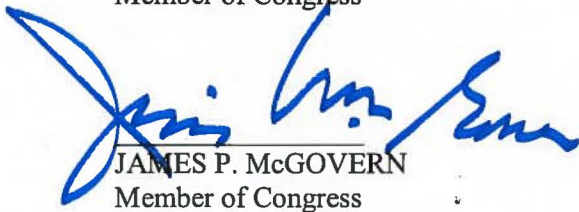
GRACE MENG
Member of Congress



JARED POLIS
Member of Congress




SEAN PATRICK MALONEY
Member of Congress



JAMES P. McGOVERN
Member of Congress



BRENDA L. LAWRENCE
Member of Congress



BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress



RICK LARSEN
Member of Congress



ZOE LOFGREN
Member of Congress



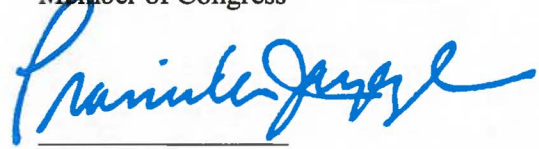
CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress



ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress



NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ
Member of Congress



PRAMILA JAYAPAL
Member of Congress



LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ
Member of Congress



SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress



YVETTE D. CLARKE
Member of Congress



THOMAS R. SUOZZI
Member of Congress



ED PERLMUTTER
Member of Congress



DINA TITUS
Member of Congress



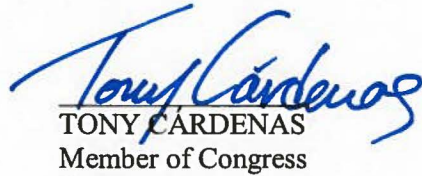
JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress



ADRIANO ESPAILLAT
Member of Congress



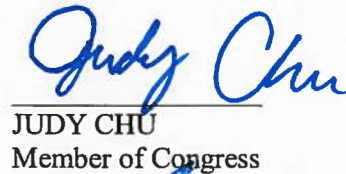
CARLOS CURBELO
Member of Congress



TONY CARDENAS
Member of Congress



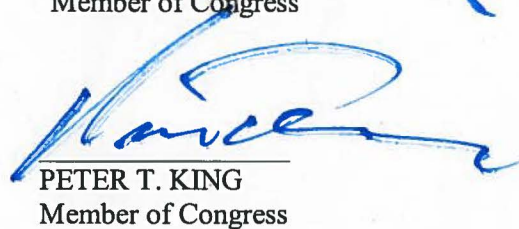
HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.
Member of Congress



JUDY CHU
Member of Congress



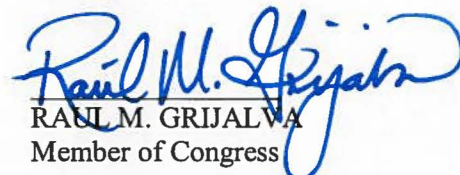
MARK DeSAULNIER
Member of Congress



PETER T. KING
Member of Congress



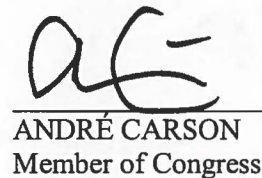
ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS
Member of Congress



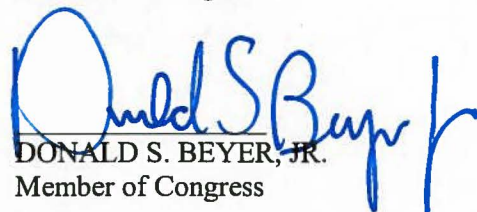
RAUL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress



NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN
Member of Congress



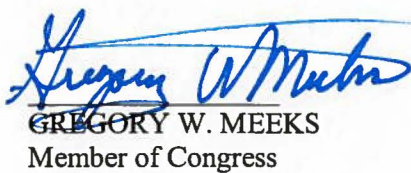
ANDRÉ CARSON
Member of Congress



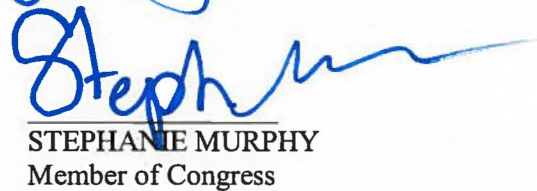
DONALD S. BEYER, JR.
Member of Congress



JIMMY GOMEZ
Member of Congress



GREGORY W. MEEKS
Member of Congress



STEPHANIE MURPHY
Member of Congress

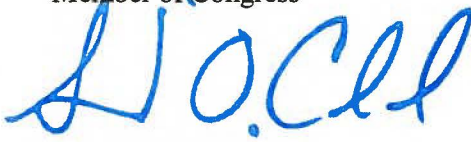
Nepal TPS Renewal

March 29, 2018

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COLLEEN HANABUSA
Member of Congress



SALUD O. CARBAJAL
Member of Congress



KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

April 16, 2018

The Honorable Joe Crowley
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Crowley:

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 Nepal. 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).

The TPS designation for Nepal is due to expire on June 24, 2018. Prior to that date, the Secretary will re-evaluate the designation and, after consultation with appropriate federal agencies, determine whether an extension or a termination is warranted, in full compliance with the INA. The Secretary will fully re-evaluate the country conditions and any other factors necessary to determine whether the TPS designation should continue. That decision, once made, will be announced by the Department of Homeland Security, and a notice will be published in the *Federal Register*.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important matter. The co-signers of your letter will receive separate, identical responses. Should you require 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 "LFC", written over a horizontal line.

L. Francis Cissna
Director