

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 4, 2024

Hon. Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear President Biden,

Thank you for your leadership and service to this nation over the past four years. We write today to urge you to act decisively during the remainder of your term of office to complete important work that will protect long-term immigrant communities and ensure that families are not returned to countries where they would face immense danger. In addition to supporting strong border security, we are eager to ensure that DACA recipients, TPS holders, and other immigrants who are critical members of our communities and economies are not forgotten during this busy time.

With this in mind, we respectfully urge you to prioritize the following actions:

Designate, Redesignate, and Extend Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Eligible Countries. Worsening crises in countries around the world, including in Ecuador, Nicaragua, and El Salvador, continue to endanger hundreds of thousands of people. Nationals from these three countries cannot return home due to severe circumstances on the ground. Ecuadorians currently face horrific levels of violence that has only surged in recent years.¹ Nicaragua remains under the oppressive rule of President Daniel Ortega's authoritarian regime, where widespread human rights violations by the government pose severe risks of state-sponsored violence and persecution to its citizens.² And both political and environmental conditions in El Salvador continue to justify TPS, with over 180,000 Salvadoran nationals having lived in the U.S. for more than 23 years.³ We urge the administration to ensure that those from countries with meritorious cases are granted TPS, allowing these individuals to continue building their lives here and contributing to our country.

Protect Deferred Action Recipients via Expedited Processing and Expansion of Legal Pathways. With the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the future of DACA and others with deferred action, we urge USCIS to process all deferred action renewals and Advance Parole requests as expeditiously as possible. USCIS should also allow all DACA recipients' status to extend for the maximum time possible. We also urge you to finalize the proposed regulation

¹ <https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2024/01/10/how-ecuador-became-latin-americas-deadliest-country>

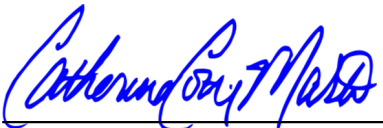
² <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/09/1153891> and <https://www.axios.com/2024/11/21/nicaragua-daniel-ortega-constitution> and <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2024/11/22/press-release-notice-to-the-speaker-of-the-house-and-president-of-the-senate-on-the-continuation-of-the-national-emergency-with-respect-to-the-situation-in-nicaragua/>

³ <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/06/21/2023-13018/reconsideration-and-rescission-of-termination-of-the-designation-of-el-salvador-for-temporary>

clarifying the rules around cap-exempt status under the H-1B program.⁴ Clearer cap exemption rules may encourage more employers to petition for H-1B visas on behalf of DACA holders, which will ensure qualified DACA recipients have opportunities to gain legal status through their employers.

We appreciate your prompt consideration of these crucial actions. Thank you for your continued service and partnership as we work together to better the lives of all Americans.

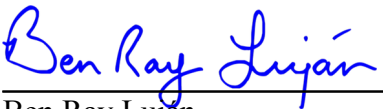
Sincerely,



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator

⁴ <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/10/23/2023-23381/modernizing-h-1b-requirements-providing-flexibility-in-the-f-1-program-and-program-improvements>