



THE LEGISLATURE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

November 1, 2023

President Joseph R. Biden
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington DC, 20003

Dear President Biden,

We, the undersigned legislators from the State of New York, wish to express our gratitude to your administration for expanding Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Venezuelan nationals. As you know, we are seeing violence, persecution, and impacts from climate change continue to impact individuals across the world. We strongly urge you to continue to take action to provide immigration relief and work authorization through TPS for New Yorkers who are currently struggling. Conditions continue to deteriorate in the home countries of nationals from Ecuador, Colombia, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Sudan, South Sudan, Nicaragua, Nepal, Mauritania, Senegal, Haiti, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Pakistan, Mali, Nigeria, and Lebanon. Designating, redesignating, and renewing TPS for those countries would provide significant and immediate relief to our constituents as well as our state which is welcoming over 125,000 newcomers. This relief would be greatly appreciated by those of us who have witnessed the humanitarian crisis of the asylum seeker emergency at our doorsteps.

Looking at Ecuador and Colombia as an example, both represent the countries with the largest share of new arrivals, after Venezuelans. They are the countries of origin for 18% and 13% of the migrants who have arrived in NYC in the last year, respectively.¹ The TPS designation of Ecuador and Colombia would allow these populations to apply for quicker work authorization without having to undergo the six-month wait period, which will, in turn, address New York's labor shortage and provide more economic relief to our state after incurring billions of dollars in expenses due to the emergency. New arrivals are eager to work in industries that desperately are seeking a workforce, from our farms, healthcare, and other workplaces and employers are eager to hire them, but they need the authorization to do so.

On November 15, 2022, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) Regional Office in Washington, D.C. recommended that the Biden Administration grant TPS to Colombian nationals, who have experienced significant political turmoil and a civil war that

¹ Sahalie Donaldson, "Venezuela, Ecuador and Colombia Are Top Countries of Origin for NYC Asylum-Seekers," *City & State NY*, August 31, 2023, <https://www.cityandstateny.com/policy/2023/08/venezuela-and-colombia-are-top-countries-origin-nyc-asylum-seekers/389888/>.

lasted over 50 years. This request has been echoed by Colombian President Gustavo Petro. Similarly, requests have been made for TPS to be granted to Ecuador, whose people have been displaced by natural disasters and violent political unrest, including the recent assassination of presidential candidate Fernando Villavicenio.

We continue to express our gratitude to you for your leadership and believe granting these additional countries with TPS will help our state and nation better manage this effort, get people to work, and improve our nation's economy. We look forward to your response and decisive action.

Sincerely,



Jessica González-Rojas
Member of Assembly, 34th AD

Kristen Gonzalez
State Senator, 59th SD

Andrew Gounardes
State Senator, 26th SD

Julia Salazar
State Senator, 18th SD

Brad Hoylman-Sigal
State Senator, 47th SD

Gustavo Rivera
State Senator, 33rd SD

Robert Jackson
State Senator, 31st SD

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Member of Assembly, 76th AD

Catalina Cruz
Member of Assembly, 39th AD

Chris Burdick
Member of Assembly, 93rd AD

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Member of Assembly, 72nd AD

MaryJane Shimsky
Member of Assembly, 92nd AD

Jen Lunsford
Member of Assembly, 135th AD

Jo Anne Simon
Member of Assembly, 52nd AD

Steven Raga
Member of Assembly, 30th AD

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Member of Assembly, 95th AD

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Member of Assembly, 84th AD

Shahana Hanif
NYC Council Member

Jennifer Gutierrez
NYC Council Member

Shekar Krishnan
NYC Council Member

Sandy Nurse
NYC Council Member

cc: U.S Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas
U.S Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer
House of Representatives Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries