



# The Consequences of Terminating Temporary Protected Status

## What is Temporary Protected Status?

- Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, is a life-saving humanitarian immigration program that protects people from being returned to countries where their lives or freedom might be threatened.<sup>1</sup>
- Enacted by Congress in 1990, TPS can be designated for a country in the event of war or ongoing armed conflict, natural disaster, epidemic, or other extraordinary and temporary conditions.<sup>2</sup>
- TPS is designated for a country by the Secretary of Homeland Security in six, 12 or 18-month increments.<sup>3</sup>
- Under the law, TPS may be extended as many

times as necessary, as long as dangerous country conditions continue.<sup>4</sup>

- TPS protects people from deportation and provides temporary work authorization.<sup>5</sup>
- TPS does not provide a path to lawful permanent resident status or citizenship.<sup>6</sup>

## Who are Temporary Protected Status Holders?

- Approximately 437,000 people from 10 countries hold TPS.<sup>7</sup>
- The majority of TPS holders are from El Salvador, Honduras, Haiti, Nepal and Syria.<sup>8</sup>

1 Carla Argueta, *Temporary Protected Status: Current Immigration Policies and Issues*, CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE (Jan. 17, 2017), [trac.syr.edu/immigration/library/P13104.pdf](https://trac.syr.edu/immigration/library/P13104.pdf).

2 INA §244 (b).

3 INA §244 (b)(2)(B).

4 *See generally* INA §244.

5 INA §244 (a)(1)(A); INA §244 (a)(1)(B)

6 *See generally* INA §244

7 Jill H. Wilson, *Temporary Protected Status: Overview and Current Issues*, CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE (Jan. 17, 2018), [fas.org/sgp/crs/homsec/RS20844.pdf](https://fas.org/sgp/crs/homsec/RS20844.pdf).

8 *Id.*

In the next ten years, the cost of ending TPS for El Salvador and Haiti will cost our GDP

**\$34 billion**

Ending TPS for El Salvador, Haiti and Honduras results in total turnover costs for employers that will grow to

**\$967 million**

All 50 states are home to TPS holders. The largest populations reside in:



TPS terminations leave parents with impossible decisions—separation from their children or bringing them to countries where they could be in harm’s way. TPS holders from El Salvador, Honduras and Haiti are parents to over

**270,000 U.S. citizen children**

- All 50 states are home to TPS holders, with the largest populations residing in California, Florida, Texas, New York, Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey and Massachusetts.<sup>9</sup>
- Over half of TPS holders from the two largest populations (El Salvador and Honduras) have been living in the U.S. for over 20 years.<sup>10</sup>
- TPS holders have high participation in the American workforce, contributing (but not drawing from) Social Security and Medicare.<sup>11</sup>
- TPS holders are breadwinners for their families in the U.S. and provide life-sustaining monetary support to family abroad.<sup>12</sup>
- TPS holders from the three largest populations (El Salvador, Honduras and Haiti) are parents to

over 270,000 U.S. citizen children.<sup>13</sup>

- Eleven percent of TPS holders in the workforce own their own businesses.<sup>14</sup>

## How Do TPS Terminations Impact the U.S.?

### Our economy is weakened

- The end of TPS for El Salvador (DHS announced termination in Jan. 2018) and Haiti (DHS announced termination in Nov. 2017) will cost our GDP \$34 billion over the next 10 years. If Honduras is also terminated, that number will grow to \$45 billion in lost GDP.<sup>15</sup>
- The end of TPS for El Salvador and Haiti will

9 *Id.*

10 Robert Warren and Donald Kerwin, *A Statistical and Demographic Profile of the US Temporary Protected Status Populations from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti*, JOURNAL ON MIGRATION AND HUMAN SECURITY, Vol. 5 No. 3 (2017), [cmsny.org/publications/jmhs-tps-elsalvador-honduras-haiti/](https://cmsny.org/publications/jmhs-tps-elsalvador-honduras-haiti/).

11 *Id.*

12 *Negative Consequences of Ending Temporary Protected Status (TPS) in El Salvador and Honduras for U.S. Interested in Promoting Prosperity, Security, and Governance in the Northern Triangle*, ALIANZA AMERICAS, ELCA, KIND, LAWG (Aug. 2017), [www.alianzaamericas.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Importance-of-TPS-to-US-Interests-Input-for-DHS-.pdf](http://www.alianzaamericas.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Importance-of-TPS-to-US-Interests-Input-for-DHS-.pdf).

13 Robert Warren and Donald Kerwin, *A Statistical and Demographic Profile of the US Temporary Protected Status Populations from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti*, JOURNAL ON MIGRATION AND HUMAN SECURITY, Vol. 5 No. 3 (2017), [cmsny.org/publications/jmhs-tps-elsalvador-honduras-haiti/](https://cmsny.org/publications/jmhs-tps-elsalvador-honduras-haiti/).

14 *Id.*

15 Amanda Baran, Jose Magana-Salgado, Tom Wong, *Economic Contributions by Salvadoran, Honduran, and Haitian TPS Holders*, IMMIGRANT LEGAL RESOURCE CENTER (April 2017), [www.ilrc.org/report-tps-economic-cost](http://www.ilrc.org/report-tps-economic-cost).

cost Social Security over \$3.9 billion over 10 years. If Honduras is terminated, the cost will grow to \$5.6 billion in lost Social Security.<sup>16</sup>

- The end of TPS for El Salvador and Haiti will cost businesses over \$732 million to replace their workers. If Honduras is terminated, this cost will grow to over \$967 million in turnover costs.<sup>17</sup>
- TPS holders from the largest populations (El Salvador, Honduras and Haiti) are vital workers in construction, childcare, healthcare, education, food services and other key industries.<sup>18</sup>

### American families are torn apart and communities are destabilized

- TPS holders from the three largest populations (El Salvador, Honduras and Haiti) are parents to over 270,000 U.S. citizen children.<sup>19</sup> TPS terminations leave parents with impossible decisions—separation from their children or bringing them to countries they do not know and where they could be in harm's way.
- TPS holders are generally allowed to obtain state-issued driver's licenses, which allows them to get to work, take their children to school and to doctor's appointments, shop and access services, etc. In the vast majority of states, losing TPS would mean losing the ability to drive,<sup>20</sup> restricting TPS holders' ability to support their families and care for children.

- Individuals with TPS status typically have access to higher education because many are able to meet residency requirements for college enrollment and in-state tuition purposes.<sup>21</sup> Without TPS, many immigrants who are enrolled in colleges will likely be forced to drop out because they no longer qualify for enrollment or resident tuition.
- Approximately 50 percent of TPS holders from two of the largest populations (El Salvador and Haiti) have mortgages.<sup>22</sup> TPS terminations result in the loss of these homes, displacing families and affecting markets and communities.

### National and regional security goals are undermined

- TPS holders send life-sustaining money, or remittances, to family and friends in home countries. The end of TPS means the end of the support people use to meet basic needs in TPS-designated countries. The loss of remittances will destabilize counties, trigger migration to the U.S., and undercut U.S. investments in the Northern Triangle.<sup>23</sup>
- TPS holders sent back to the Northern Triangle are prime targets for gang violence due to actual or perceived wealth from living and working in the U.S. TPS holders would be highly likely to flee or be trafficked back to the U.S. to escape violence.<sup>24</sup>

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16 *Id.*

17 *Id.*

18 Robert Warren and Donald Kerwin, *A Statistical and Demographic Profile of the US Temporary Protected Status Populations from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti*, JOURNAL ON MIGRATION AND HUMAN SECURITY, Vol. 5 No. 3 (2017), [cmsny.org/publications/jmhs-tps-elsalvador-honduras-haiti/](https://cmsny.org/publications/jmhs-tps-elsalvador-honduras-haiti/).

19 *Id.*

20 *States, Districts, and Territories Providing Driver's Licenses to Undocumented Immigrants*, [cliniclegal.org/sites/default/files/advocacy/stateandlocal/Drivers-License-Map.pdf](https://cliniclegal.org/sites/default/files/advocacy/stateandlocal/Drivers-License-Map.pdf).

21 *Tuition Equity: Access to Higher Education for Immigrants*, [cliniclegal.org/sites/default/files/advocacy/stateandlocal/Tuition-Equity-Map.pdf](https://cliniclegal.org/sites/default/files/advocacy/stateandlocal/Tuition-Equity-Map.pdf).

22 Robert Warren and Donald Kerwin, *A Statistical and Demographic Profile of the US Temporary Protected Status Populations from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti*, JOURNAL ON MIGRATION AND HUMAN SECURITY, Vol. 5 No. 3 (2017), <http://cmsny.org/publications/jmhs-tps-elsalvador-honduras-haiti/>.

23 *Negative Consequences of Ending Temporary Protected Status (TPS) in El Salvador and Honduras for U.S. Interested in Promoting Prosperity, Security, and Governance in the Northern Triangle*, ALIANZA AMERICAS, ELCA, KIND, LAWG (Aug. 2017), [www.alianzaamericas.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Importance-of-TPS-to-US-Interests-Input-for-DHS-.pdf](http://www.alianzaamericas.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Importance-of-TPS-to-US-Interests-Input-for-DHS-.pdf).

24 *Id.*