



DANIELLA LEVINE CAVA
MAYOR
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

July 9, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
301 7th St, SW
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

As you know, South Florida has long been a beacon of hope for hundreds of thousands of families who escaped tyranny, oppression, warfare, and human rights violations. Many Miami-Dade County residents – including Venezuelans, Nicaraguans and Haitians – have received Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and as a result have had enormous positive impact on our community and economy.

As TPS for Venezuelans is expected to expire this year, I write this letter urging your office to renew this important protection for Venezuelans in our community who already have it, and to redesignate it to include those who arrived after the first announcement. We all know well that the continued instability and political oppression in Venezuela has not improved, and we understand that what Venezuelans need the most right now is continued support as they build new lives in our community.

Miami-Dade County is poised to continue offering stability and opportunities to thousands of families striving for their chance at the American dream, and through our Office of New Americans, we will continue supporting Venezuelans in this ongoing process. I have personally witnessed your compassionate leadership before, and we urge the federal administration to extend this critical protection to the Venezuelan people.

With great respect,

Daniella Levine Cava



September 20, 2022

Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor Miami-Dade County
Stephen P. Clark Center
111 N.W. First Street, 29th Floor
Miami, Florida 33128-1930

Dear Mayor Levine Cava:

Thank you for your July 9, 2022 letter to the Department of Homeland Security in support of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Venezuela. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is principally responsible for advising the Secretary on TPS issues and implementing the program, and Secretary Mayorkas asked that I respond on his behalf.

I appreciate the concerns you have outlined regarding the situation in Venezuela and your interest in its redesignation for TPS. As you know, on July 11, 2022, after careful consideration, including a thorough review of the country conditions and consultation with interagency partners, Secretary Mayorkas extended the designation of TPS for Venezuela for 18 months.¹

This extension will be in effect from September 10, 2022, through March 10, 2024 and allows the approximately 343,000 Venezuelans who were in the United States at the time of the initial designation in March of 2021 to continue to be eligible for TPS and remain in the United States under protected status.² The *Federal Register* notice provides for the automatic extension of employment authorization documents that expire on September 9, 2022 and includes information about fees and how applicants may request a fee waiver, if necessary.

USCIS will continue to process pending TPS applications. Applicants with a pending Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, or Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, will not need to file either application again. If USCIS approves a pending Form I-821 that was filed during the initial designation of TPS for Venezuela, USCIS will grant the applicant TPS through March 10, 2024. Similarly, if USCIS approves a pending TPS-related Form I-765 for an initial applicant, USCIS will issue a new Employment Authorization Document (EAD) valid through March 10, 2024. USCIS will also plan and coordinate outreach opportunities regarding the extension of TPS for Venezuela to provide information and answer questions from the public.

¹ <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/07/11/dhs-announces-extension-temporary-protected-status-venezuela>

² See Extension of the Designation of Venezuela for Temporary Protected Status (87 FR 55024), available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/09/08/2022-19527/extension-of-the-designation-of-venezuela-for-temporary-protected-status>.

USCIS is committed to the timely and efficient processing of all applications. Reducing backlogs and timely processing of cases is the highest priority of the agency. Recently, USCIS set agency-wide backlog reduction goals, expanded premium processing to additional form types, and continues working to improve timely access to EADs. The recent Temporary Final Rule to increase the automatic EAD extension from up to 180 days to up to 540 days for certain renewal applicants, to include TPS applicants and beneficiaries with an approved EAD, not only allows applicants to avoid gaps in employment and maintain continuity of operations for U.S. employers, it affords USCIS the time it needs to address staffing shortages and implement additional efficiencies. The recent successful launch of online filing for all TPS designated countries is also notable, as it ensures an easier application process and faster receipt of all TPS applications for processing. We will continue to identify opportunities to support our efforts to timely process applications for TPS and related documents.

This extension is one of many ways the Biden administration, together with our regional partners, is providing humanitarian support to Venezuelans at home and abroad, including providing additional humanitarian and development funding, encouraging regional partners to offer protective status, and creating a path to a regular migration status for Venezuelans. In addition, USCIS also offers support that may be available upon request to assist eligible Venezuelan nationals who have been affected by special situations, including the following:

- Change or extension of nonimmigrant status if eligible Venezuelan nationals are currently in the United States, even if the request is filed after the authorized period of admission has expired;
- Expedited processing of requests for advance parole documents;
- Expedited adjudication of requests for off-campus employment authorization for F-1 students experiencing severe economic hardship;
- Expedited adjudication of employment authorization applications, where appropriate;
- Assistance if applicants received a Request for Evidence or a Notice of Intent to Deny and were unable to appear for an interview, submit evidence, or respond in a timely manner because of the special situation; and,
- Replacement of lost or damaged immigration or travel documents issued by USCIS, such as a Permanent Resident Card (Green Card).

More information on these options is available on our website at <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/special-situations>.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. Should you require any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ur M. Jaddou", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ur M. Jaddou
Director