



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PAINTERS AND ALLIED TRADES

GENERAL PRESIDENT'S BULLETIN

What is Temporary Protected Status and DACA?

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is a renewable program that provides relief from deportation and access to a work permit for individuals from certain countries who cannot safely return to their country of origin. TPS provides a legal pathway for employment authorization and protection from deportation for immigrants from designated countries on a renewable period.

More than 300,000 immigrants have permission to live and work in our country today due to a form of humanitarian relief called Temporary Protected Status (TPS). Since 1990, TPS has been granted to people from countries that have been embroiled in violent conflict or suffered a natural disaster so that they will not be returned to harm's way.

DACA or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals - was an American immigration policy that allowed some individuals who entered the country as minors, and had either entered or remained in the country illegally, to receive a renewable two-year period of deferred action from deportation and to be eligible for a work permit. As of 2017, approximately 800,000 individuals—referred to as Dreamers after the DREAM Act bill—were enrolled in the program created by DACA. The policy was established by the Obama administration in June 2012 and rescinded by the Trump administration in September 2017.

The majority of TPS and DACA beneficiaries have been contributing to our communities and our economy for more than 15 years, but their status is now at risk. Anti-immigrant groups are urging the administration to end TPS status for all affected countries, which would effectively strip away work authorization for hundreds of thousands of people, including tens of thousands of union members.

Why is TPS important to the IUPAT?

The IUPAT has many dues paying members who are TPS beneficiaries. With the future of TPS in question, we would like to briefly summarize the negative impact that ending the program would have on our union, our industry, and the workers we seek to represent.

We know that thirty percent of TPS recipients have found employment in the construction industry, many of them work in our trades and many of them are in our union. Repealing this program would immediately put them in jeopardy, upend their lives, and would inevitably lead to our union brothers and sisters having enormous hardship in their lives through no fault of their own.

We see this next step in the attack on immigrant workers as an attack on labor as well as an attack on the economy. The decision of DHS to terminate TPS would have immediate, expensive ramifications for our country and industry costing taxpayers \$3 billion, a \$45 billion reduction in GDP, \$6.9 billion reduction in Social Security and Medicare contributions and nearly \$1 billion in employer costs combined with an already stressed skilled worker pool. Industry icons such as, The Walt Disney Company, has moved the Chamber of Commerce to publicly appeal to DHS to extend TPS for the 300,000 plus beneficiaries that keep local businesses running.



No less than thirty percent (30%) of TPS recipients have found gainful employment in the construction industry, many as union members. These are our members, brothers and sisters, our neighbors and community members who contribute greatly to our society and economy. Terminating TPS will only serve to strip hundreds of thousands of working people of their rights and forcing them into the shadow economy will directly undermine our ability to raise wages and fight for equality at work.

What countries are eligible for TPS?

Under current law, the Secretary of Homeland Security may designate a country for TPS when one of three circumstances occurs:

- There is “ongoing armed conflict” that creates unsafe conditions for returning nationals;
- There has been an earthquake, flood, drought, epidemic, or other environmental disaster that makes the state temporarily unable to accept the return of its nationals, and the state has requested TPS designation; or
- “Extraordinary and temporary” conditions in a state prevent its nationals from returning safely.

What happens if TPS is terminated?

DHS has made clear that they would use the very information it collected when individuals register for TPS to institute exclusion or deportation proceedings upon the denial, withdrawal, or expiration of TPS.

Convening the Coalition

Over the last couple of months, as this issue has further materialized and we, along with other unions have realized the full impact that terminating TPS would have on our membership, The IUPAT saw the urgency to convene this coalition of unions as our only hope in combatting the attack on many of our members’ families and livelihoods. After meeting with the Ironworkers, Bricklayers, UniteHERE and UFCW, we decided rapid response was needed if we were to gain any ground on the issue. As of yesterday, the coalition has taken shape as Working Families United and today launched the creation of the Joint Campaign to Extend Temporary Protected Status for All Countries Facing Expiration and Fight for Immigrant Worker Justice.

Legislative effort

There have been 3 bills introduced on the House side, and one bill introduced on the senate side. The IUPAT and Working Families United have endorsed HR 4253 the Velasquez bill, and helped draft S. 2144 the Van Hollen bill. Both bills that we have supported follow the core tenants of:

- **The legislation covers all TPS recipients from all countries,**
- **The legislation allows TPS recipients to continue to work legally in this country.**
- **It keeps families and communities together through a permanent solution for these 302,000 individuals, and lastly**
- **The legislation also includes legal permanent residency and a pathway to citizenship.**

With 30% percent of TPS recipients working in the construction industry, there is also industry backing from the Chamber of Commerce, Associated General Contractors, Associated Builders and Contractors,



The FCA, and a large number of individual companies and trades associations. There are members of congress on both sides of the isle that want to find a fix for these working men and women. We need to help create the urgency and the bipartisan support for our legislative solutions.

Communications Effort

We are currently in the process of collecting visual and graphic collateral including static photos and video for a combined coalition digital campaign which was launched this past Monday. Please send any photos of actions you are currently or plan to be involved in to communications@iupat.org

Another component to our collective strategy is building the capacity to push out geo-targeted ads on the capitol complex, meaning everyone working in Congress, including all staff, will receive ads with our Pro-TPS messaging.

Please visit [The Working Families United website](#) with extensive info, updates and calls to action including, the petition to pass the American Promise Act that can be share through your Facebook and Instagram counterparts. All info collected will be shared amongst Coalition Unions for use on other campaigns regarding relevant issues.

We need your help to create a groundswell of support, through calls, petition signatures, local events and press. We have the structure and the ability to create an amazing amount of urgency and worker power that will deliver a legislative victory and will build up our relationship with those not fortunate enough to be in our union