

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 16, 2018

The Honorable John J. Sullivan
Acting Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Kirstjen Nielsen
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Nebraska Avenue Complex
3801 Nebraska Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20528

SCANNED/RECEIVED
BY EXEC SEC
2018 APR 17 AM 7:09

Dear Acting Secretary Sullivan and Secretary Nielsen:

We urge the administration to extend the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation granted to Nepalese nationals living in the United States after the devastating April 2015 earthquake that killed 9,000 individuals and left many thousands more homeless and displaced. Shortly after the earthquake, 12 U.S. Senators signed a letter requesting a TPS designation for these nationals, and a designation was promptly granted. As Nepal continues to rebuild, we request an immediate extension of the current designation, which expires on June 24, 2018.

The 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Nepal in April 2015 not only resulted in a substantial loss of life, but also devastated Nepal's infrastructure—destroying large swaths of the country from the capital of Kathmandu to the rural areas. The earthquake destroyed more than half a million homes, and forced nearly 650,000 families to seek shelter. Even today, as the country works to rebuild its infrastructure and restore housing to previous levels, the situation remains perilous. As recently as last summer, more than two-thirds of those affected were still living in temporary shelters. An extension of the TPS designation for Nepalese nationals in the United States would help the Nepalese government focus limited resources on rebuilding efforts and prevent individuals from being returned to uncertain and unsafe conditions.

As you know, TPS is designed to grant protection for foreign nationals living in the United States when extraordinary circumstances make it difficult for them to return to their home countries. Current law dictates that TPS may be granted when there are, “conditions in the foreign state that prevent... nationals of the state from returning to the state in safety.” We believe that the devastating damage in Nepal and the challenges its government faces clearly meet these criteria, and that extending the TPS designation would help the Nepalese government restore housing, safety, and stability to its people.

Nepalese nationals in the United States are living in a state of uncertainty, not knowing whether they will be forced to return to an unsafe situation in their home country. We urge you to extend the TPS designation for Nepal and allow these nationals to remain in the United States until the conditions in their home country are further improved.

We thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



MAZIE HIRONO
United States Senator



CHARLES E. SCHUMER
United States Senator



DIANNE FEINSTEIN
United States Senator



EDWARD J. MARKEY
United States Senator



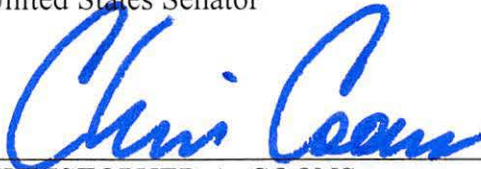
PATTY MURRAY
United States Senator



CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
United States Senator



TINA SMITH
United States Senator



CHRISTOPHER A. COONS
United States Senator



AMY KLOBUCHAR
United States Senator



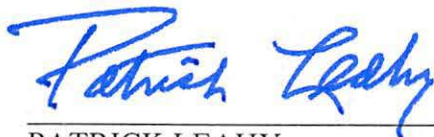
CORY A. BOOKER
United States Senator



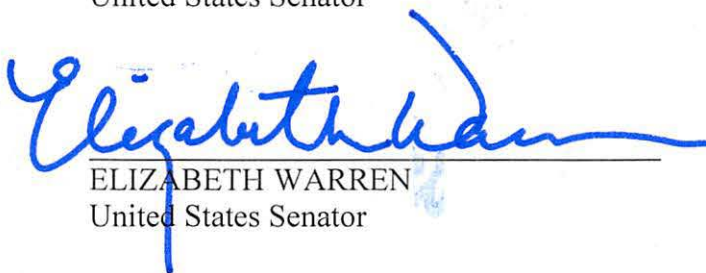
KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND
United States Senator



SHERROD BROWN
United States Senator



PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator



ELIZABETH WARREN
United States Senator



ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator



TAMMY DUCKWORTH
United States Senator



BERNARD SANDERS
United States Senator



RICHARD J. DURBIN
United States Senator



JEANNE SHAHEEN
United States Senator



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senator



MICHAEL F. BENNET
United States Senator



KAMALA D. HARRIS
United States Senator



MARGARET WOOD HASSAN
United States Senator



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

April 25, 2018

The Honorable Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hirono:

Thank you for your April 16, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

I appreciate your interest in the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Nepal. The Secretary of Homeland Security's authority to designate a country for TPS and to extend or terminate a country's existing designation is based upon specific statutory criteria. *See* Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) § 244(b). U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is principally responsible for advising the Secretary on TPS issues and implementing the program.

At least 60 days before the current expiration date for a TPS designation, the Secretary must review conditions in the foreign country and, after consultation with other appropriate federal agencies, determine whether the statutory conditions for TPS continue to be met. Under the INA, if the Secretary determines that the conditions for designation are no longer met with respect to a country, the Secretary is required to terminate the designation. *See* INA § 244(b)(1),(3).

The TPS designation for Nepal is due to expire on June 24, 2018. Prior to that date, the Secretary will re-evaluate the designation and, after consultation with appropriate federal agencies, determine whether an extension or a termination is warranted, in full compliance with the INA. The Secretary will fully re-evaluate the country conditions and any other factors necessary to determine whether the TPS designation should continue. That decision, once made, will be announced by the DHS, and a notice will be published in the *Federal Register*.

Thank you again for your letter and for your interest in this important matter. The co-signers of your letter will receive separate, identical responses. Should you require any additional assistance, please have your staff contact the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Office of Legislative Affairs at (202) 272-1940.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LFC", written over a horizontal line.

L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

April 25, 2018

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

Thank you for your April 16, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

I appreciate your interest in the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Nepal. The Secretary of Homeland Security's authority to designate a country for TPS and to extend or terminate a country's existing designation is based upon specific statutory criteria. *See* Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) § 244(b). U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is principally responsible for advising the Secretary on TPS issues and implementing the program.

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Respectfully,

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

April 25, 2018

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Thank you for your April 16, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

I appreciate your interest in the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Nepal. The Secretary of Homeland Security's authority to designate a country for TPS and to extend or terminate a country's existing designation is based upon specific statutory criteria. *See* Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) § 244(b). U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is principally responsible for advising the Secretary on TPS issues and implementing the program.

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

April 25, 2018

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

Thank you for your April 16, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

I appreciate your interest in the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Nepal. The Secretary of Homeland Security's authority to designate a country for TPS and to extend or terminate a country's existing designation is based upon specific statutory criteria. *See* Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) § 244(b). U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is principally responsible for advising the Secretary on TPS issues and implementing the program.

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Respectfully,

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

April 25, 2018

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Brown:

Thank you for your April 16, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

April 25, 2018

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

Thank you for your April 16, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

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Respectfully,

L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

April 25, 2018

The Honorable Cory A. Booker
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Booker:

Thank you for your April 16, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

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Respectfully,

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

April 25, 2018

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

Thank you for your April 16, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

April 25, 2018

The Honorable Christopher A. Coons
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Coons:

Thank you for your April 16, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

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Respectfully,

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

April 25, 2018

The Honorable Tina Smith
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Smith:

Thank you for your April 16, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

I appreciate your interest in the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Nepal. The Secretary of Homeland Security's authority to designate a country for TPS and to extend or terminate a country's existing designation is based upon specific statutory criteria. *See* Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) § 244(b). U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is principally responsible for advising the Secretary on TPS issues and implementing the program.

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Respectfully,

L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

April 25, 2018

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Van Hollen:

Thank you for your April 16, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

I appreciate your interest in the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Nepal. The Secretary of Homeland Security's authority to designate a country for TPS and to extend or terminate a country's existing designation is based upon specific statutory criteria. *See* Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) § 244(b). U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is principally responsible for advising the Secretary on TPS issues and implementing the program.

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

April 25, 2018

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

Thank you for your April 16, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

April 25, 2018

The Honorable Michael F. Bennet
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bennet:

Thank you for your April 16, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

April 25, 2018

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

Thank you for your April 16, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
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Services

April 25, 2018

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Shaheen:

Thank you for your April 16, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

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The TPS designation for Nepal is due to expire on June 24, 2018. Prior to that date, the Secretary will re-evaluate the designation and, after consultation with appropriate federal agencies, determine whether an extension or a termination is warranted, in full compliance with the INA. The Secretary will fully re-evaluate the country conditions and any other factors necessary to determine whether the TPS designation should continue. That decision, once made, will be announced by the DHS, and a notice will be published in the *Federal Register*.

Thank you again for your letter and for your interest in this important matter. The co-signers of your letter will receive separate, identical responses. Should you require any additional assistance, please have your staff contact the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Office of Legislative Affairs at (202) 272-1940.

Respectfully,

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

April 25, 2018

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

Thank you for your April 16, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

I appreciate your interest in the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Nepal. The Secretary of Homeland Security's authority to designate a country for TPS and to extend or terminate a country's existing designation is based upon specific statutory criteria. *See* Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) § 244(b). U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is principally responsible for advising the Secretary on TPS issues and implementing the program.

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

April 25, 2018

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sanders:

Thank you for your April 16, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

I appreciate your interest in the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Nepal. The Secretary of Homeland Security's authority to designate a country for TPS and to extend or terminate a country's existing designation is based upon specific statutory criteria. *See* Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) § 244(b). U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is principally responsible for advising the Secretary on TPS issues and implementing the program.

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
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April 25, 2018

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Duckworth:

Thank you for your April 16, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

I appreciate your interest in the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Nepal. The Secretary of Homeland Security's authority to designate a country for TPS and to extend or terminate a country's existing designation is based upon specific statutory criteria. *See* Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) § 244(b). U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is principally responsible for advising the Secretary on TPS issues and implementing the program.

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

April 25, 2018

The Honorable Robert Menendez
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Menendez:

Thank you for your April 16, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

I appreciate your interest in the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Nepal. The Secretary of Homeland Security's authority to designate a country for TPS and to extend or terminate a country's existing designation is based upon specific statutory criteria. *See* Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) § 244(b). U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is principally responsible for advising the Secretary on TPS issues and implementing the program.

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

April 25, 2018

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warren:

Thank you for your April 16, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

I appreciate your interest in the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Nepal. The Secretary of Homeland Security's authority to designate a country for TPS and to extend or terminate a country's existing designation is based upon specific statutory criteria. *See* Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) § 244(b). U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is principally responsible for advising the Secretary on TPS issues and implementing the program.

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

April 25, 2018

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

Thank you for your April 16, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

I appreciate your interest in the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Nepal. The Secretary of Homeland Security's authority to designate a country for TPS and to extend or terminate a country's existing designation is based upon specific statutory criteria. *See* Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) § 244(b). U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is principally responsible for advising the Secretary on TPS issues and implementing the program.

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

April 25, 2018

The Honorable Kamala D. Harris
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Harris:

Thank you for your April 16, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

I appreciate your interest in the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Nepal. The Secretary of Homeland Security's authority to designate a country for TPS and to extend or terminate a country's existing designation is based upon specific statutory criteria. *See* Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) § 244(b). U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is principally responsible for advising the Secretary on TPS issues and implementing the program.

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L. Francis Cissna
Director



U.S. Citizenship
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Services

April 25, 2018

The Honorable Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hassan:

Thank you for your April 16, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

I appreciate your interest in the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Nepal. The Secretary of Homeland Security's authority to designate a country for TPS and to extend or terminate a country's existing designation is based upon specific statutory criteria. *See* Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) § 244(b). U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is principally responsible for advising the Secretary on TPS issues and implementing the program.

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