

The termination of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for people from El Salvador was a major blow. Many of TPS recipients have been living in the United States for extended periods of time and have children who are US citizens. We believe that TPS is essential to promote the well-being of our community.

TPS allows individuals to access higher education with in-state tuition, get mortgages, obtain health insurance, and be lawfully employed. The loss of TPS protection will be felt by many families, and will be particularly harmful for our youth. Exclusionary immigration policies exacerbate social isolation, fear of family separation, anxiety, and depression. Stressful events during adolescence have been consistently associated with substance use and depression, and have lifelong effects. Without TPS, parents of US-born children may face barriers in enrolling their children in Medicaid and other benefits, or may be hesitant to do so because of fear of deportation.

On September 9, 2019, when TPS protection ends, thousands of people from El Salvador will be faced with the lesser of many evils. They can return to a El Salvador and leave their children behind, relocate their children to a country they do not know and is rife with violence, or live in the shadows in the US. Despite limited opportunities to work, study, and contribute to society, many will decide to stay. Why? Because like most loving parents throughout the world, they want to keep their families intact and give their children the opportunity to live to their full potential.