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2ND DISTRICT, KANSAS

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION & LABOR

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

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July 24th, 2019.

Acting Secretary Kevin McAleenan
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
300 7th St SW,
Washington, DC 20024

Acting Director Ken Cuccinelli
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
20 Massachusetts Ave NW,
Washington, DC 20529

Dear Acting Secretary McAleenan and Acting Director Cuccinelli:

We write to you as Members of Congress who support a free, stable, and democratic Syria.

The Syrian population in the United States, who are part of the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) program, are currently facing the possibility of being sent home after the expiration of their status on September 30th, 2019. It is critical for the community operating under TPS to see this status upheld until the situation in Syria becomes stable, safe, and free from oppression. This status currently applies to only 7,000 individuals in the United States, the overwhelming majority of which are professionals, including doctors, engineers, and academics.

On April 9th, 2019, the U.S. Department of State published their latest travel advisory for Syria. In it, Syria was designated as a Level 4 risk, and warned against travel due to the high threat of terrorism, civil unrest, kidnapping, and armed conflict. Giving Syrians no choice but to return home would put them in danger.

TPS may be granted in scenarios wherein the Secretary of Homeland Security decides that conditions in a certain foreign country temporarily prevent the country's nationals from returning safely. Temporary and extraordinary conditions that warrant the granting of this status include ongoing armed conflict. While present in the U.S, TPS designees are non-removable from the U.S. and can obtain an employment authorization document. TPS was granted in response to the Syrian military's violent suppression of opposition to President Bashar al-Assad's regime and was most recently extended by 18 months from April, 1st, 2018, to September, 30th, 2019 during which time, the situation in Syria has not improved.

We write to you in advance of the September 30th, 2019 expiration to urge you to extend the dates of the TPS of the Syrians, to avoid sending them home to a reality that remains largely unchanged from the one of which they sought refuge. While we understand the terms and scope of their TPS, it would be an injustice to return them to a country that we advise against travelling to for our own citizens.

Sincerely,



Steve Watkins
Members of Congress.

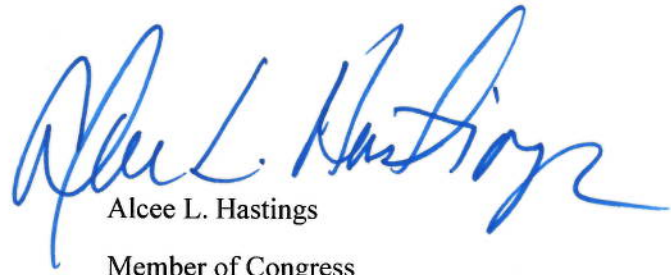


Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick

Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings

Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson

Member of Congress



Ron Wright

Member of Congress



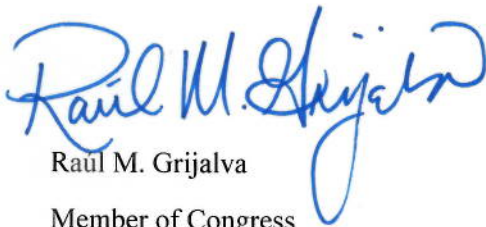
Eleanor Holmes Norton

Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez

Member of Congress



Raul M. Grijalva

Member of Congress



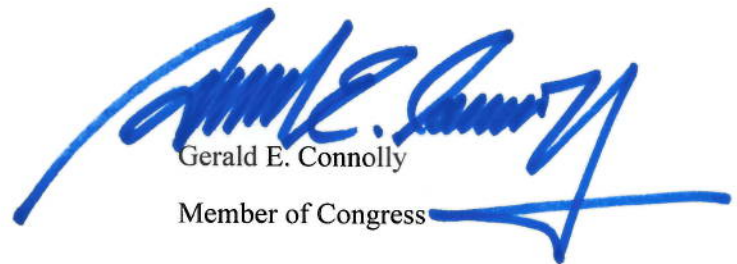
Earl Blumenauer

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Steve Stivers

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Gerald E. Connolly

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Susan Wild

Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel

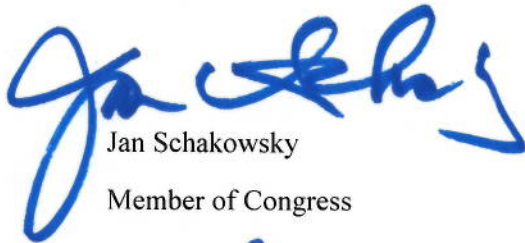
Member of Congress



Susan W. Brooks
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



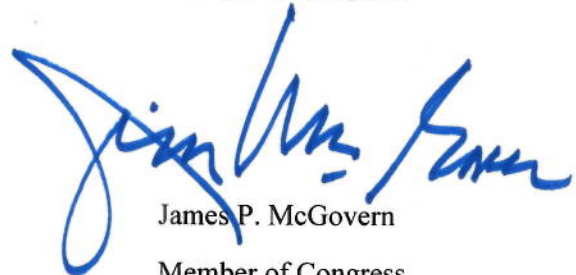
Jan Schakowsky
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Alex X. Mooney
Member of Congress



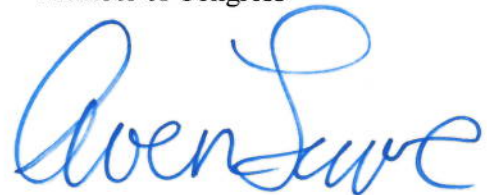
Adam Smith
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