



## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
January 8, 2018

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### **Temporary Protection Status Ended for More than 200,000 Salvadorans in U.S.**

*The administration will notify Salvadorans with protected status that they have until Sept. 9, 2019, to leave the United States or find a way to obtain legal residency*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The U.S. Department of Homeland Security today announced the end to Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Salvadorans, the program which has granted more than 200,000 immigrants from El Salvador relief from deportation for nearly two decades.

TPS was originally put in place by U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft following a 7.7 magnitude earthquake and two subsequent earthquakes that killed more than 1,100 and displaced 1.3 million Salvadorans in March 2001. The program allowed immigrants from El Salvador who had been in the United States since February 2001 to apply for TPS, which would protect them from deportation and allow them to get work permits.

TPS has been revisited since it was instituted nearly 17 years ago by both Republican and Democratic administrations, but extensions of the program were found to be **necessary** each time given that conditions in El Salvador could not sufficiently handle the return of its nationals.

“Disrupting our economy and tearing children away from their mothers and fathers is not only wrong, it is un-American,” stated Arturo Vargas, National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund executive director. “We urge Congress to pass a legislative fix in the next 18 months that will allow these hardworking Americans to continue to keep their families together, contribute to their communities, and grow our economy.”

The deportation of 200,000 Salvadorans would be devastating for the economy and rip American families apart. More than 193,000 U.S-born children have at least one Salvadoran parent with TPS. Nearly one-third of TPS recipients have mortgages and 88 percent have jobs in key industries like homecare and construction.

Salvadorans with protected status will be notified that they have until September 9, 2019, to leave the United States or find a way to obtain legal residency. Several bills with bipartisan support to create a permanent solution for Salvadorans and TPS holders have already been introduced in Congress.

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#### **About NALEO Educational Fund**

*NALEO Educational Fund is the nation's leading non-profit, non-partisan organization that facilitates the full participation of Latinos in the American political process, from citizenship to public service.*