

**The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.**  
**President of the United States**  
**The White House**  
**1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW**  
**Washington, DC 20500**

February 17th, 2022.

Dear President Biden:

We, the Venezuelan American Caucus (VAC) along with the undersigned Venezuelan-American organizations and our allies, first and foremost graciously applaud and thank President Biden last year's designation of Temporary Protected Status ("TPS") for Venezuela, which has provided immigration relief to thousands of Venezuelan nationals living in the United States, as well as the subsequent extension of the application period. We particularly welcome the swiftness of such action as it has signaled to us that the Venezuelan, Latino, and immigrant communities are priorities for the Biden-Harris administration, and for the Department of Homeland Security. It is with that in mind that we write to respectfully request an extension of the TPS designation to include Venezuelan nationals who arrived in the United States after March 9th, 2021.

As you are aware, Venezuela is currently facing a severe economic, political, and humanitarian [crisis](#). [Millions of Venezuelans](#) have left the country due to political persecution, a collapse of basic services, food insecurity, and rampant violence. According to the [2021 ENCOVI survey](#) conducted by the Universidad Católica Andrés Bello (UCAB), Venezuela, despite its wealth of natural resources, has nearly 94 percent of its population living in poverty and 77 percent living in extreme poverty. As well, a [2019 report published by the United Nations' Human Rights Council](#) detailed the dire conditions of the country's health system, citing a [2019 National Hospital Survey](#) that found that between November 2018 and February 2019, 1,557 people died because of lack of supplies in hospitals." This situation has [worsened as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic](#), with a third of the country's hospitals reporting having no water supply and two-thirds having only an intermittent supply. In numbers, 60% of hospitals reported shortages of gloves and face masks, 76% of hospitals suffered soap shortages, and 90% reported shortages of sanitizing gel.

That is why over the last year, thousands of Venezuelans have arrived in the United States seeking refuge. They are escaping the worst humanitarian crisis in Latin American history, having to make the tough choice between a treacherous migration journey or continuing to live in a context of violence, extreme poverty, and lack of access to basic necessities during a deadly pandemic. More importantly, returning to Venezuela represents an incredible risk for many as they have been targeted by the Maduro regime due to their social and political activism. As there does not seem to be an end to this crisis in the short term, the United States must act in the wake of such a humanitarian emergency by, once again, providing immigration relief in the form of TPS.

Like other Venezuelans, those that have recently arrived will contribute to our local, state, and federal economies and make this country and society a better place for all. These are mothers and fathers committed to providing a future of prosperity and stability to their children, and, in the process, help foster economic development in the United States. These are entrepreneurs, essential workers, business owners, and future taxpayers who see this country as a beacon of hope, freedom, and growth. They are no different than the hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans who now qualify for TPS due to your swift action. They are searching for the American dream in a country of immigrants.

In addition to the humanitarian catastrophe in Venezuela and the potential socio-economic contributions detailed above, there are other important reasons to extend TPS to recently arrived Venezuelans in the United States. There's a [well-known delay](#) in the processing of political asylum applications, which most of those recent arrivals have sought. In fact, current wait times for cases in the asylum backlog is 1621 days, an [average of about four and a half years](#). Such delays put this already-vulnerable population at higher risk, not allowing them to thrive and fully participate in our economy and society. This situation explains the success of the current [TPS designation for Venezuelans](#), with over 70 percent of those eligible already having applied for the program. Moreover, there's precedent that we can draw on to argue in favor of such an extension of TPS to recently arrived Venezuelans. On May 21st, 2021, under your administration, the Department of Homeland Security announced a [new TPS redesignation for Haiti](#) in response to that country's humanitarian crisis; before that, other countries like Syria, Sudan and Somalia have also received it. We should follow these precedents in the case of Venezuelan nationals and extend the registry cut-off to ensure that those recently arrived qualify for the program.

Again, we welcome the actions already taken under your leadership to support Venezuelan immigrants in the United States. We respectfully urge you to extend the TPS designation to include Venezuelan nationals who arrived in the United States after March 9th, 2021. We also look forward to continuing working together to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform and continue showcasing the United States as a beacon of freedom and democracy around the world.

Thank you for supporting our cause and for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Venezuelan American  
Caucus  
Adelys Ferro  
Director



Casa de Venezuela  
Orlando  
William Diaz  
Founder



Casa de Venezuela  
Philadelphia  
Emilio Buitrago  
Director



Venezuelan American  
Association of the U.S.  
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Eduardo Ramiez  
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Paciano Padron  
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Venezuela Para Ti  
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Fabiola Gomez  
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Solidaridad Activa NC  
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Maria Gabriela Perez  
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Casa de Venezuela  
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Jose Gamboa  
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Juan Giarrizzo  
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Marcial Marquez  
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Denise Rincon  
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Casa de Venezuela LAX  
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Foro Penal  
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Casa de Venezuela  
Tennessee  
Raquel Alvarez  
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Florida Grassroots  
Coalition  
Miguel Sahid  
Chairman



Elizabeth Sweet  
Executive Director



Sonia Cosme  
President



Creating pathways to new beginnings.

Ronnie Miller  
Executive Director

FAPI International  
Oly Castiglia  
Director



The Children of Immigrant  
Families Coalition's  
Otayme Valenzuela  
Associate Director



Libia Valdes-Gregg  
President



Casa Venezolana  
Americana Emerald Coast  
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Casa de Venezuela Arizona  
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