

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

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 K Hirono

MAZIE K. HIRONO
United States Senator

Charles E. Schumer

CHARLES E. SCHUMER
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein

DIANNE FEINSTEIN
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey

EDWARD J. MARKEY
United States Senator

Patty Murray

PATTY MURRAY
United States Senator

Chris Van Hollen

CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
United States Senator

Tina Smith

TINA SMITH
United States Senator

Chris Coons

CHRISTOPHER A. COONS
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar

AMY KLOBUCHAR
United States Senator

J. A. B.

CORY A. BOOKER
United States Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand

KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown

SHERROD BROWN
United States Senator

Patrick Leahy

PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren

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
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MICHAEL F. BENNET
United States Senator


KAMALA D. HARRIS
United States Senator


MARGARET WOOD HASSAN
United States Senator