

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio,

We write to express our dismay over the Trump Administration's decision to terminate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Venezuelans. As Venezuelans continue to suffer under the Maduro regime, we are deeply troubled by the disconnect between the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) claims of "notable improvements" in Venezuela¹ and your own repeated characterizations of the Maduro regime as a grave threat to its people and the world.²

On February 5th, DHS justified terminating TPS for Venezuelans by citing "notable improvements in several areas such as the economy, public health, and crime" claiming conditions now allow for safe returns.³ Yet just one day later, on February 6th, you contradicted this assessment, stating, "I do not know how else to talk about a regime that has forced about 8 million citizens to leave Venezuela. They imprison, they torture innocent individuals."⁴ You have previously referred to the Maduro regime as an "enemy of humanity,"⁵ and on February 26th, in an official transcript from the Department of State, you reaffirmed that Maduro remains a horrible dictator and the "same threat today that he was two years ago, three years ago, four years ago."⁶

Venezuelans fleeing horrific, inhumane conditions have received refuge in the United States since the start of the humanitarian crisis through TPS, a program that has enjoyed

¹ "Termination of the October 3, 2023, Designation of Venezuela for Temporary Protected Status." 90 Federal Register 9040-9044 (February 5, 2025).

² Tico Times. "Rubio Labels Nicaragua, Venezuela, Cuba as Enemies of Humanity." February 5, 2025. <https://icotimes.net/2025/02/05/rubio-labels-nicaragua-venezuela-cuba-as-enemies-of-humanity>.

³ "Termination of the October 3, 2023, Designation of Venezuela for Temporary Protected Status." 90 Federal Register 9040-9044 (February 5, 2025).

⁴ U.S. Department of State. "Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Dominican President Luis Abinader Joint Press Conference" February 6, 2025. <https://www.state.gov/secretary-of-state-marco-rubio-and-dominican-president-luis-abinader-at-a-joint-press-availability>

⁵ Tico Times. "Rubio Labels Nicaragua, Venezuela, Cuba as Enemies of Humanity." February 5, 2025. <https://ticotimes.net/2025/02/05/rubio-labels-nicaragua-venezuela-cuba-as-enemies-of-humanity>

⁶ U.S. Department of State. "Secretary of State Marco Rubio with Brian Kilmeade of Fox News." February 26, 2025. www.state.gov/secretary-of-state-marco-rubio-with-brian-kilmeade-of-fox-news/.

bipartisan support. The Trump Administration's decision to revoke TPS for 348,000 Venezuelans is not just dangerous, it is a betrayal of the Venezuelan-American community. It defies logic that the United States would deport individuals to a country you yourself have described as an "enemy of humanity," one that has driven 8 million people to flee, imprisons dissidents, and tortures innocent civilians. We therefore request an explanation of what drastic change occurred in Venezuela between February 5th, when DHS declared Venezuela safe for return, and February 6th when you reaffirmed the brutal reality of Maduro's dictatorship. We look forward to your prompt response.

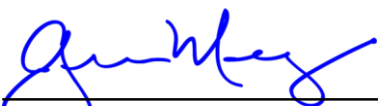
Sincerely,



Gregory W. Meeks
Ranking Member
House Foreign Affairs
Committee



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager Dove
Member of Congress



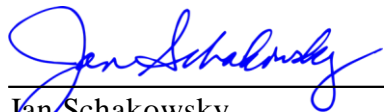
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



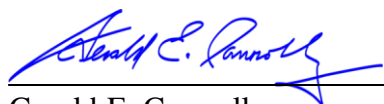
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



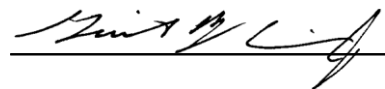
Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



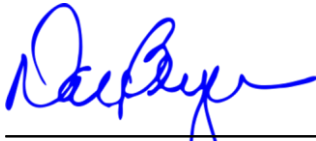
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



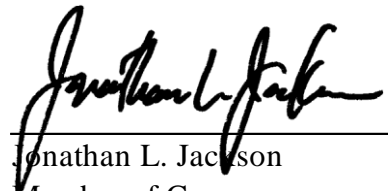
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



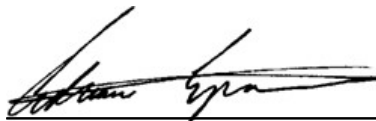
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



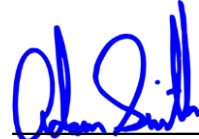
Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



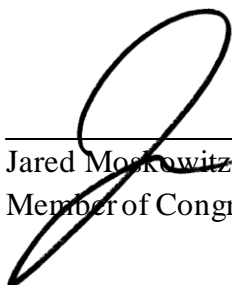
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
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Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



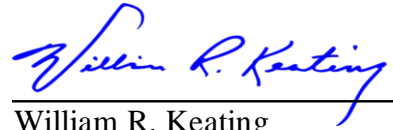
Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Western
Hemisphere
House Committee on Foreign
Affairs



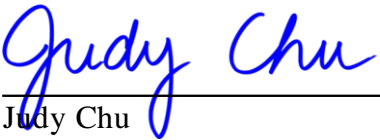
Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Kristi Noem, Secretary of Homeland Security