



Bill Summary: Venezuela TPS Act

Representatives Darren Soto (D-Florida) and Mario Diaz-Balart (R-Florida) introduced the Venezuela TPS Act of 2019, or [H.R.549](#), on January 15, 2019. The bill would designate Venezuela for [temporary protected status](#) (TPS), allowing certain Venezuelan nationals to stay in the U.S., regardless of their current immigration status. The Secretary of Homeland Security grants TPS to certain individuals who cannot safely return to their home countries due to ongoing armed conflict, environmental disasters, or other extraordinary circumstances.

While the total number of individuals, who would be eligible for TPS under H.R.549, is [unclear](#), about [72,000](#) Venezuelans have come to the U.S. since 2014.

The bill is almost identical to [S. 636](#), introduced by Senators Robert Menendez (D-New Jersey), Marco Rubio (R-Florida), Richard Durbin (D-Illinois), Patrick Leahy (D-Vermont) and Cory Booker (D-NJ) on February 28, 2019.

The Venezuela TPS Act of 2019 would:

- [Designate](#) Venezuela for TPS, allowing its nationals to remain in the U.S. for 18 months, regardless of their immigration status if they:
 - Came to the U.S. after [early 2013](#);
 - Have been continuously physically [present](#) in the United States since the date of the enactment of the bill; and
 - Meet all other requirements for TPS.
- [Provide](#) Venezuelan nationals who meet the above requirements with:
 - Employment authorization; and
 - Authorization to travel outside the U.S. for emergencies and extenuating circumstances.

Congress should designate Venezuela for TPS because:

- The country has been [facing](#) unprecedented economic, humanitarian, security, and refugee crisis, consisting of extreme food and medicine shortages, severe infant and child malnutrition, rampant crime, and government-sponsored repression.
- Venezuela [ranks](#) as the most dangerous country in the world.
 - In 2017, the country's homicide rate [stood](#) at 89 per 100,000 people which compares to [5.3](#) per 100,000 people in the United States.
- TPS holders [contribute](#) to the U.S. economy. For example, TPS holders from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti [contribute](#) \$4.5 billion in income to the gross domestic product annually and \$6.9 billion to Social Security and Medicare over a decade.