Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Washington, AC 20515-0926

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The Honorable Kristi Noem Secretary of Homeland Security United States Department of Homeland Security Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Noem,

I am writing to address the urgent situation regarding the decision to end the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for roughly 600,000 Venezuelans living here in the United States. TPS is granted to foreign citizens who are unable to return to their home country as a result of war, natural disasters, or other extraordinary conditions. Many Venezuelans have arrived in our country under these conditions and have integrated into our communities, respected the laws, and contributed with honest jobs. Unfortunately, we have seen how some nationals with ties to organized crime or members of transnational criminal organizations, such as "Tren de Aragua", take advantage of our generous system. While members of the "Tren de Aragua" gang are Venezuelans, not all Venezuelans belong to "Tren de Aragua." We must not allow the actions of a few to unfairly stigmatize an entire community. It is essential that security concerns are addressed with precision, ensuring that law-abiding Venezuelans are not unjustly penalized.

For this reason, and in view of the February deadline, I urge you to make a decision that individually provides a solution to those who contribute to our country and respect the rule of law. In Venezuela, the regime of Nicolas Maduro continues to repress, torture, and silence the Venezuelan people. The majority of Venezuelans flee their home to come to the United States seeking freedom, while respecting our laws.

In all, nearly 8,000,000 Venezuelans have fled their Homeland in recent years to many different countries as a direct result of the oppressive Nicolas Maduro regime. President Trump has shown his solidarity with the Venezuelan people who have had their rights and dignity stripped away by the Maduro dictatorship. We must focus our efforts on removing the tyrant Nicolas Maduro so democracy can be restored, and the people of Venezuela are free once again.

Sincerely,

Carlos A. Gimenez Member of Congress