

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 29, 2016

The Honorable Jeh Charles Johnson  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In light of the recent 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck off Ecuador's central coast on April 16, 2016 where an estimated 650 people were killed and thousands more were injured we would like to request that you immediately grant Ecuadorian nationals Temporary Protected Status (TPS) in the United States. Haitian nationals in the U.S. received TPS after Haiti was struck by a magnitude 7.0 earthquake in 2010, which led to the death and displacement of several hundred thousand Haitians.

As you know, TPS may be granted when any of the following conditions are met: there is ongoing armed conflict posing a serious threat to personal safety; it is requested by a foreign state that temporarily cannot handle the return of nationals due to environmental disaster; or when extraordinary and temporary conditions in a foreign state exist which prevent aliens from returning. As its name states, TPS is a temporary response that the U.S. can make to prevent further strain on a recently ravaged foreign nation. TPS does not convey or lead to lawful permanent residence or provide any other immigration status.

Given the widespread destruction caused by the earthquake in Ecuador, we believe it would be unsafe to remove or otherwise repatriate Ecuadorians back to their homeland. Ecuador simply cannot receive them safely at this point in time, when entire cities and geographical areas have been destroyed. Based on the foregoing, we respectfully ask that you consider Ecuador for Temporary Protected Status.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to working with you on this and other matters of mutual concern.

Sincerely,



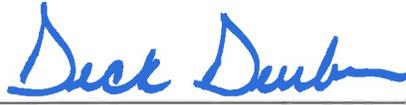
Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



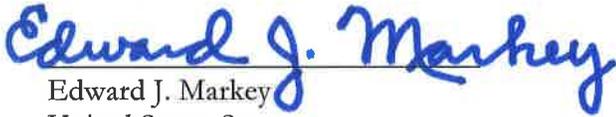
Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



Al Franken  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



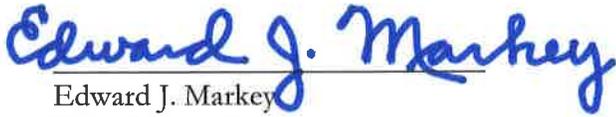
Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



Al Franken  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Robert Menendez  
United States Senator