

Introduced by: Councilmember Smith

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION 2018-1

A Resolution of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland to Call on Congress to Extend Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Current Countries and Establish a Pathway to Permanent Residency for TPS and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Recipients

- WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park is committed to and maintains a long history of supporting, celebrating, and empowering immigrants and refugees, many of whom are escaping war or natural disasters; and
- WHEREAS, Temporary Protection Status (TPS) is a form of immigration status created by Congress in 1990 that provides employment authorization and protection from deportation for foreign nationals who cannot safely return to their home countries; and
- WHEREAS, the second largest number of TPS recipients nationally live in Maryland, including 19,800 Salvadorans with 17,100 U.S.-born children and 1,900 Hondurans with more than 1,300 U.S.-born children; and
- WHEREAS, TPS protections for nationals from El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, and other countries have been in place for about 20 years. However, the current Administration has announced that it will no longer renew TPS for nationals from Nicaragua, Haiti, and other nations, including most recently El Salvador, from which overall there are some 250,000 TPS recipients in this country. The Department of Homeland Security is currently reviewing possible termination of all other TPS programs, including TPS benefits for 57,000 Hondurans; and
- WHEREAS, TPS holders are a vibrant part of our community, raising families, starting businesses, and making other contributions to our communities. Meanwhile, conditions in TPS-designated countries have remained dangerous and unsafe, such that deportation to those countries would place individuals and their families at grave risk; and
- WHEREAS, the termination of TPS would harm Takoma Park by negatively impacting the lives of long-term residents, separating parents from their U.S.-born children, and weakening our community; and
- WHEREAS, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is a similar form of protected status for young immigrants who were brought to the United States at a young

age, are attending school or have successfully completed their education, and successfully passed background checks. The program has allowed young immigrants to work and study while protected from deportation; and

WHEREAS, the educational investment made in DACA recipients is a critical component to the long-term success of our nation. To make such an investment and then deport those residents is shortsighted and counter-productive; and

WHEREAS, DACA's nearly 800,000 young men and women have successfully been able to contribute to their communities through working, going to school, and living their lives without the fear of being ripped away from their families and from a country they consider home; and

WHEREAS, Maryland is home to more than 9,700 DACA beneficiaries. Their DACA status will terminate in March 2018 if they are not provided with a path to legalize their status; and

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park recognizes the integral part in the well being that TPS and DACA recipients play in our City.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Takoma Park hereby supports the Temporary Protected Status program and calls on the Department of Homeland Security to continue the TPS program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Takoma Park supports a permanent solution for TPS and DACA recipients to obtain a legal permanent status with a pathway to citizenship and calls on Congress to expeditiously adopt legislation that would permanently legalize the status of DACA and TPS holders.

Adopted this 10th day of January, 2018.

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk