



LIUNA!

November 21, 2017

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The Honorable Nydia Velazquez
U.S. House of Representatives
2302 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Karen Bass
U.S. House of Representatives
2241 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ted Lieu
U.S. House of Representatives
236 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Velazquez, Congresswoman Bass and Congressman Lieu:

On behalf of the 500,000 men and women of the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA), a union built by and for immigrants, I write to endorse your legislation to protect recipients of the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) program. HR 4253, the American Promise Act, would allow these valued members of our union to remain in our country by protecting them from deportation to their still-unstable countries of origin.

HR 4253 would protect workers and their immediate family members who have had a continuous presence in the U.S. for the past three (3) years from all TPS designated nations, and give them a path to legal permanent resident status as well as eventual naturalization. LIUNA also supports the bill's important and necessary inclusion of oversight by requiring a justification of a change in the nation's TPS designation.

Hundreds of thousands of union members have lived and worked in our country for years under TPS, paying taxes while supporting their families. These workers build America every day, and at the same time, build the U.S. economy. Ending TPS for countries including Haiti, El Salvador, and Honduras would have a significantly negative effect on the construction industry. Over twenty percent of TPS recipients work in the construction industry, most from these three (3) nations. In addition to the devastating impact on these workers and their families, termination of the TPS program would lead to an estimated \$45 billion reduction in GDP, an immediate

Feel the Power

HR 4253
November 21, 2017
Page 2

\$6.9 billion reduction in tax contributions, and nearly \$1 billion in employer costs. For these reasons, LIUNA supports your bill to protect recipients of the TPS program.

The construction industry needs to retain workers covered by the TPS program to continue to build America. HR 4253 is needed to protect our union members, and our union is proud to endorse your bill.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Handwritten signature of Terry O'Sullivan in cursive script.

TERRY O'SULLIVAN
General President

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