

## Amnesty and Chaos: Abuse of U.S. Immigration Policy

Statement of Chris Newman, Legal Director, National Day Laborer Organizing Network  
Submitted to the House Committee on Oversight, Task Force on Defending Constitutional Rights  
and Exposing Institutional Abuses

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Chairman Comer, Ranking member Garcia, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I am Chris Newman, Legal Director and General Counsel at the National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON). NDLON works with day laborers, migrants and low-wage workers to expand labor, civil, and political rights for all. As part of that work, NDLON supports the National TPS Alliance, a member-led organization whose mission is to defend the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) program and win permanent residency for TPS holders.

Immigration amnesty programs turn undocumented immigrants into lawful residents. In contrast, this administration's policies are turning lawful residents into undocumented immigrants.

On May 19, 2025—in a single day—the United States' undocumented population rose by 350,000.<sup>[1]</sup> It went up by 55,000 on September 8, 2025<sup>[2]</sup> and by a quarter million on November 8.<sup>[3]</sup> At the end of this month, if the administration gets its way, it will grow by another 360,000.<sup>[4]</sup>

These single-day surges reflect Temporary Protected Status terminations. Each strips legal status and work authorization from tens or hundreds of thousands of lawfully present immigrants.

Take 'Santos.'<sup>[5]</sup> A 38-year-old father of two, he came to the U.S. from Honduras as a child. Until September, he supported his U.S. citizen children and wife with his job as a supervisor in the oil and gas industry. Then Honduras' TPS was terminated, and with it, his immigration status. He lost his job and his family's health insurance. His wife found work, but earns far less than he did—barely enough to pay out-of-pocket for the medication their daughter depends on to stay healthy.

You might discount Santos's 26 years of lawful presence here, because you don't think Honduras should have been designated for TPS for 26 years. But the fact is, it was. Congress set no limit

on the number of TPS extensions.<sup>[6]</sup> And five different administrations—Democrat and Republican—decided to extend TPS for Honduras.<sup>[7]</sup>

You might discount Santos’s story because TPS has “temporary” in its name. But TPS holders’ lives are not temporary. Santos did not live “temporarily” in the U.S., his life in some artificial limbo, a visitor pacing a waiting room for two decades. He *lived* here. He grew up, went to school, started a career, bought a home, married, and raised children.

So, what now?

“De-documenting” Santos and other TPS holders can be achieved only at devastating personal cost for them and their families. And even if you don’t care about their pain—even if you find it funny to laugh about it on *X*—if you take seriously your job as a United States Congressman, you should at least ask yourself, what have you bought your constituents with their pain?

Higher prices, for one thing. Turning legal immigrants into undocumented immigrants is bad economic policy. The cost of goods and services produced by the agriculture and construction industries will be especially affected, given the large share of impacted immigrants who work in those industries. Recent estimates predict an increase of 14.5% in producer prices for most food products and a 6.1% spike for construction costs as a result of the de-documentation of TPS holders and other punitive immigration policies.<sup>[8]</sup> Working class Americans, who spend most of their income on food and housing, will feel these increases the most.

Separating American families, for another. Nearly 400,000 U.S. citizen children, and more than 410,000 U.S. citizen adults, live with at least one TPS holder.<sup>[9]</sup> Many TPS holders nonetheless have no pathway to citizenship, especially given recent changes making it harder for immediate family members of United States citizens to obtain green cards.

So if de-documenting TPS holders carries great personal cost and no social benefit, what is the alternative?

It’s simple. Congress should pass legislation like the American Dream and Promise Act and create a path to lawful permanent residence for TPS holders. Because, like the Irish, German, Italian, Chinese, and other immigrants who came before them, TPS holders are part of this nation’s present and future. It is time for them to receive equal rights to U.S. citizenship as previous generations of immigrants.

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[1] See Dara Lind, Supreme Court “De-Documents” 350,000 Venezuelans – And Keeps Everyone in the Dark About What’s Next, at <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/blog/supreme-court-de-documents-350000-venezuelans/> (May 21, 2025).

[2] See Economic Policy Institute, Ending temporary protected status for Honduras and Nicaragua, at <https://www.epi.org/policywatch/ending-temporary-protected-status-for-honduras-and-nicaragua/> (July 14, 2025).

[3] Termination of the 2021 Designation of Venezuela for Temporary Protected Status, 90 Fed. Reg. 43225 (Sept. 8, 2025).

[4] Amy Howe, Justices will hear argument on Trump administration’s removal of protected status for Syrian and Haitian nationals, at <https://www.scotusblog.com/2026/03/justices-will-hear-argument-on-trump-administrations-removal-of-protected-status-for-syrian-and-haitian-nationals/> (Mar. 16, 2025).

[5] Name has been changed to protect confidentiality.

[6] See 8 U.S.C. 1254a.

[7] See, e.g., 64 Fed. Reg. 524 (Jan. 5, 1999) (designation, under Clinton administration); 69 Fed. Reg. 64,084 (Nov. 3, 2004) (extension, under George W. Bush administration); 79 Fed. Reg. 62,170 (Oct. 16, 2014) (extension under Obama administration); 82 Fed. Reg. 59,630 (Dec. 15, 2017) (automatic extension under first Trump administration); 88 Fed. Reg. 40,304 (June 21, 2023) (extension under Biden administration).

[8] Fwd.us, Prices for all Americans are set to unnecessarily rise under recent and proposed immigration policies impacting the U.S. labor force, at [https://www.fwd.us/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/260522\\_FWD\\_PricesReport\\_Print.pdf](https://www.fwd.us/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/260522_FWD_PricesReport_Print.pdf) (June 25, 2025).

[9] Fwd.us, Temporary Protected Status protects families while also boosting the U.S. economy, at <https://www.fwd.us/news/temporary-protected-status-report/> (April 21, 2026).