



# The Florida Senate

*Senator Manny Diaz, Jr.*

District 36

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404 South Monroe Street  
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March 27, 2019

Honorable United States President Donald J. Trump  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Honorable President Donald J. Trump,

**RECEIVED**

*By ESEC at 12:20 pm, May 14, 2019*

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4/25/19  
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I am deeply concern for the Venezuelan people residing in the State of Florida and primarily in the South Florida area.

While I strongly express solidarity with those impacted by the Maduro regime and the hardships that the Venezuelan people and their families are going through, I also need to adequately push for Temporary Protective Status and in some cases the extension of TPS for both the Venezuelan people living in the United States and their families. It is crucial for us elected officials to support and assist by extending their visas in order to protect them from repatriation. Granting and extending TPS for these families will enable them to work and acquire a driver's license until Venezuela is free from tyranny, lack of political freedom and fear of prosecution.

- Entire families, not just children, currently face targeted violence in Venezuela;
- Large numbers of displaced people (IDPs) in Columbia, Brazil, and the United States will continue to be displaced, illustrating already existing safety issues and the growing humanitarian protection challenges.
- Currently the Venezuelan government does not have the capacity to adequately handle the return of its people living in these countries and adequately provide safety as evidenced in the latest breakdown of its government and failure to address citizen's safety. Humanitarian concerns related to its large-scale displacement, as well as due to its lack of adequate protection and an integration system for displaced persons.

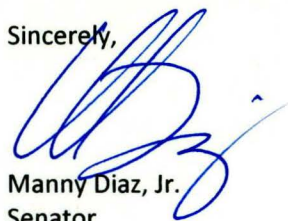
Not allowing TPS at this time and returning Venezuelan people would be inhumane. Given the current country conditions, Venezuela is in no position to accommodate the return of those whose visas have expired. In addition, TPS would allow those people in dire need to coexist without fear of repatriation in the United States. At this time we have several numbers of undocumented Venezuelan that would if repatriated lead to family separation, and unnecessarily cause the Department of Homeland Security to expend resources on individuals who are already registered with our government and whose safe return is forestalled by dire humanitarian conditions.

The Venezuelan community that has immigrated to the United States due to repression and lack of human rights needs to work, contribute to U.S. communities in an authorized capacity. Maintain safe, stable lives, and human dignity for their families, many of which include U.S. citizens.

We ask you to help us in procuring temporary protective status. We need to show compassion and patience with the Venezuelan community and allow them to continue to improve their lives in the United States as they await freedom and democracy in their country.

We appreciate your consideration of this request. I stand ready to support measures to protect the well-being and dignity of the Venezuelan people and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Manny Diaz, Jr.', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Manny Diaz, Jr.  
Senator  
District 36

Cc: Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart  
Senator Marco Rubio  
Senator Rick Scott  
Ambassador Carlos Trujillo

Education Committee Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on Education, Health Policy,  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, Ethics and Elections,  
Joint Select Committee on Collective Bargaining



Senator Manny Diaz, Jr.  
Hialeah Gardens City Hall  
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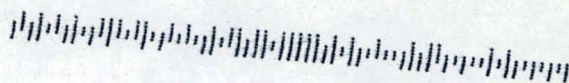
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United States President Donald J. Trump  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

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U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

June 20, 2019

The Honorable Manny Diaz, Jr.  
Hialeah Gardens City Hall  
10001 NW 87 Avenue  
Hialeah Gardens, Florida 33016

Dear Senator Diaz:

Thank you for your March 27, 2019 letter to President Trump. The White House shared your letter with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and Acting Secretary McAleenan asked that I respond on his behalf.

I appreciate your concern for the situation in Venezuela and your interest in its designation for Temporary Protected Status (TPS). The DHS Secretary's authority to designate a country for TPS, as well as the authority to extend or terminate a country's existing TPS designation is based upon specific statutory criteria. *See* Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) § 244(b). U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is principally responsible for advising the Secretary on TPS issues and implementing the program.

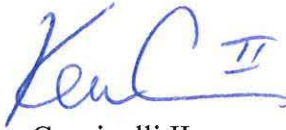
The decision to make an initial TPS designation is purely discretionary. To designate a foreign country for TPS, the Secretary must find, after consultation with appropriate Government agencies, one or more of the following: (1) there is an ongoing armed conflict within the country that would pose a serious threat to the personal safety of the country's nationals if they were returned; (2) there has been an environmental disaster resulting in a substantial, but temporary, disruption of the living conditions in the area affected, the country is temporarily unable to handle adequately the return of its nationals, and the country has officially requested TPS designation; or (3) there exist extraordinary and temporary conditions in the country that prevent nationals from returning in safety, and the Secretary does not find that permitting the country's nationals to remain temporarily in the United States would be contrary to the national interest of the United States. *See* INA § 244(b)(1).

For your awareness, USCIS also has other humanitarian programs and relief measures that may also be available to eligible Venezuelans outside of any consideration for designation of TPS. Other immigration relief measures that may be of assistance to Venezuelan nationals affected by the current conditions in Venezuela may be found at:  
[www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/special-situations](http://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/special-situations).

The Honorable Manny Diaz, Jr.  
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Thank you again for your letter. Should you require any additional assistance, please have your staff contact the USCIS Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 272-1940.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Ken Cuccinelli II". The signature is stylized, with the first name "Ken" written in a cursive-like font, followed by "Cuccinelli" and "II" in a more formal, slightly spaced-out font.

Ken Cuccinelli II  
Acting Director