

Mr. Danny Espino, Board Member

SUBJECT: URGING CONSIDERATION OF NEW SAFEGUARDS FOR LAW-ABIDING IMMIGRANTS PREVIOUSLY COVERED BY TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS (TPS) AS PART OF SECURING THE UNITED STATES

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: SAFE, HEALTHY, & SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is a strategic humanitarian program that allows individuals from countries experiencing extraordinarily challenging circumstances, such as, without limitation, atrocious human rights violations, political oppression and upheaval caused by corruption, armed conflict, or other similar crises, to reside and work legally in the United States.

TPS directly impacts many students and families in Miami-Dade County. Many in our community from countries like Venezuela, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Honduras have fled brutal totalitarian and communist regimes, as well as corrupt governments, which the United States vehemently opposes, seeking better lives in the United States. These families have become integral parts of our schools and productive members of our community and contribute significantly to our community's cultural, social, and academic richness. While certain numbers of individuals who have been granted TPS may have subsequently engaged in criminal conduct, the overwhelming majority in our community that were previously covered by TPS are law-abiding and availed themselves of TPS to establish safe and productive lives for themselves and their families in the United States—their version of the American Dream.

Regrettably, TPS became part of an unsustainable American immigration policy, which resulted in millions of individuals flooding our borders. The national security of the United States is of paramount importance, and it is recognized that the suspension of TPS is part of a larger effort to secure our Nation's borders and make our communities safer. The elimination of TPS without alternative safeguards unfortunately may jeopardize the legal status of many law-abiding students and their families in our community. Additionally, many face financial destabilization, having relied on TPS for legal employment. Our students may experience further disruption as their standing for housing and other resources becomes unclear. This uncertainty has the potential to affect the mental and emotional well-being of students and their families and can possibly erode the fabric of our diverse community. Lastly, the possibility of returning to countries where students and their families have fled religious and political persecution, economic upheaval and civil unrest caused by political corruption, and other crises after being productive members of society works counter to the type of immigration policy that our nation has historically favored.

This board item requests that the School Board of Miami-Dade County urge President Donald Trump, his administration, and the United States Congress to develop new safeguards for law-abiding immigrants previously covered by TPS, independently and/or as part of the actions being deployed to further secure the United States of America. This action calls on federal policymakers to create new measures that stabilize the immigration, employment, and protection status of law-abiding individuals who fled countries due to religious and political persecution, economic upheaval and civil unrest due to political corruption, and other similar crises, were previously covered by TPS, and are productive members of society, recognizing that this effort is a security concern, as well as a critical step in protecting the well-being of the students, families and communities we serve.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the Office of the General Counsel as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MR. DANNY ESPINO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, urge the President, his administration, and the United States Congress to develop new immigration safeguards for law-abiding immigrants who were previously covered by Temporary Protected Status and seek to remain productive members of our community and nation.