

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE, JULIA MEJIA, GABRIELA COLETTA ZAPATA, BREADON, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, MURPHY, PEPÉN, SANTANA, WEBER AND WORRELL



## CITY OF BOSTON

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IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE

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### RESOLUTION DENOUNCING THE ROLLBACK OF TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS FOR HAITIAN, VENEZUELAN, AND OTHER DESIGNATED COMMUNITIES

**WHEREAS,** Temporary Protected Status (TPS) has historically provided humanitarian relief to individuals from countries experiencing armed conflict, environmental disasters, or other extraordinary conditions, enabling them to live and work lawfully in the United States without fear of deportation; and

**WHEREAS,** Thousands of Haitian and Venezuelan TPS recipients, along with TPS holders from many other countries, have become integral members of local economies, neighborhoods, and workplaces, strengthening our communities through their cultural, social, and economic contributions; and

**WHEREAS,** The TPS program was extended to Haiti in 2010 due to ongoing violence, political instability, and natural disasters that continue to pose serious threats to the safety of Haitian nationals; and Massachusetts alone has the second-largest Haitian population in the United States, who have deeply integrated and contributed to local communities; and

**WHEREAS,** Close to 500,000 Haitians nationwide currently depend on TPS for protection, with some estimates placing more than 16,000 Haitian TPS holders in Massachusetts alone; many of these individuals fill crucial roles in health care, construction, transportation, hospitality, and food service, contributing to the stability and growth of our local economies; and

**WHEREAS,** Venezuelan nationals, numbering up to 600,000 under TPS, have similarly fled severe social, political, and economic upheaval; under recent federal changes, an estimated 350,000 Venezuelan TPS recipients face a sudden termination in April, with the remaining set to lose protections in September, despite having become vital members of communities across the nation; and

**WHEREAS,** Ending TPS would force many recipients who have lived in the United States for years, often raising families and contributing substantially to local economies, into precarious positions or possible deportations; Massachusetts alone has roughly 30,000 TPS holders, whose sudden loss of lawful status could inflict a heavy toll on our workforce in critical sectors, including health care, hospitality, and manufacturing; and

**WHEREAS,** Terminating or shortening TPS designations without robust evidence or adequate justification that country conditions have improved places recipients, including families who have resided here for years, in grave danger should they be forced to return to countries still grappling with widespread violence, political instability, and economic devastation; and

**WHEREAS,** Such actions have been widely decried as cruel, harmful, and contrary to the humanitarian intent of TPS, eroding trust while jeopardizing public health, local economies, and family unity; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

**RESOLVED:** That the Boston City Council condemn any rollback of TPS protections for Haitian, Venezuelan, and other designated communities, and uphold the humanitarian principles upon which TPS is founded.

Filed on: March 3, 2025