

MEDIA ADVISORY: Monday, March 15, 2021

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**** Interviews available in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole ****

Expanding TPS to Venezuela is Just the Beginning

We celebrate the administration's move to expand TPS for Venezuelans, but we alert the community that a permanent solution and a green card could be within reach if Senators Rubio and Scott support it

WHO: Florida Rising, Florida Immigrant Coalition, Venezuelan impacted families and concerned members of the community, legislative leaders

WHAT: Venezuelans ask Senators Rick Scott, Marco Rubio, and the Florida Congressional Delegation to give them long term security

WHEN: TOMORROW, March 16, 2021 at 11:30 pm

WHERE: Sabor Venezolano-Doral 10720 NW 74 St. Doral, FL 33178

MIAMI, FL. — Last week the Biden administration announced that Temporary Protected Status (TPS) will be extended for Venezuelans living in the United States. The designation allows individuals to get work permits, drivers' licenses and protects them from deportation for 18 months. Venezuelans have been migrating to South Florida for the past 20 years, as asylum applications are denied, many may become out of status, undocumented. TPS will protect them from deportation, but it remains a temporary protection.

There are key opportunities for the Biden administration and Congress to deliver permanent protections for immigrant communities. This includes urgently passing the Dream and Promise Act [reintroduced](#) in the House last week that would provide a pathway to citizenship for over 4 million undocumented immigrants.

The following is a statement by Maria Rodriguez, Executive Director of the Florida Immigrant Coalition:

"The Biden administration's decision to designate TPS for Venezuelan immigrants, temporarily shielding them from deportation is welcomed and celebrated. But after twenty years, they could and should get a chance to become legal permanent residents, That is exactly what HR6, The American DREAM & Promise Act, to be voted on this week, and the Secure Act in the Senate would provide to the TPS eligibles or recipients.

We are alerting the Venezuelan community about not just their opportunity through TPS, but the possibility that with Senator Rubio and Scott's support they could become legal permanent residents and eventually voting citizens. These bills seek to end the limbo these DACA and TPS recipients have endured, [around 650,000 immigrant youth](#) whose destiny is in the hands of a judge or the TPS recipients, [estimated 320,000 people](#), who have been vetted and screened for

a couple decades, these Floridians, many essential workers, should no longer live as second class citizens.”

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The [Florida Immigrant Coalition](#) is a statewide alliance of over 60 member organizations, including farmworkers, students, service providers, grassroots organizations and legal advocates, who come together for the fair treatment of all people