

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 15, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
2801 Nebraska Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary of State  
U.S. State Department  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Secretary Mayorkas and Secretary Blinken,

We write to urge you to extend and redesignate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Somalia for an 18-month period. The designation of TPS for Somalia is set to expire on March 17, 2023, with a decision date fast approaching on January 16, 2023. Due to ongoing armed conflict, violence, and humanitarian crises, it remains unsafe for Somali nationals to return. In addition to the extension, we ask that the administration redesignate TPS for Somalia for those who did not meet the cut-off period of the current designation.

As highlighted by civil society organizations in their recent letter to the administration, Somalia is facing a humanitarian crisis exacerbated by protracted armed conflict.<sup>1</sup> The security situation in Somalia remains extremely fraught, as Al-Shabaab continues to threaten the stability and safety of Somalia. Violence is rampant, with the highest number of recorded civilian casualties since 2017 according to the UN.<sup>2</sup> An estimated 40 percent of the population, or 6.1 million people, are left hungry due to the drought and soaring inflation.<sup>3</sup>

A designation of TPS for Somalia is in line with U.S. commitments to the nation and its people. As stated by the U.S. Department of State, "The United States is committed to helping Somalia's government strengthen democratic institutions, improve stability and security, and deliver services for the Somali people." An estimated 400 beneficiaries are on the verge of losing their work authorization and facing deportation if the administration fails to extend the designation. Deportation would not only threaten the safety of these individuals but would also have devastating consequences for U.S.-citizen children of Somali TPS holders. Parents would have to

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/somalia>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/11/somalia-turk-decries-steep-rise-civilian-casualties-amid-surge-al-shabaab>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/15/world/africa/somalia-election-president.html>;  
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/05/1118852>

make the impossible choice of whether to leave their child behind in the U.S. or take them back to dangerous conditions in Somalia.

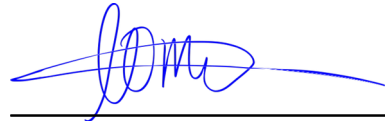
We request that you provide an 18-month extension for current TPS holders and expand the protections to more recently arrived Somali individuals present in the United States by redesignating Somalia for TPS. We look forward to actions from your offices prior to January 16, 2023.

Sincerely,



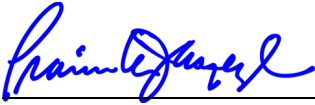
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Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



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Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



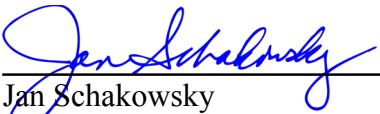
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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



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Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



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Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



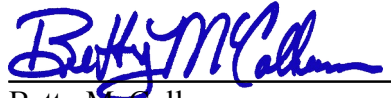
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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



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Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



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Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



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André Carson  
Member of Congress



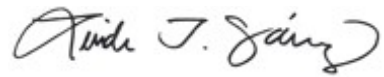
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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



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Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



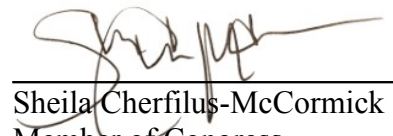
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Cori Bush  
Member of Congress



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Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



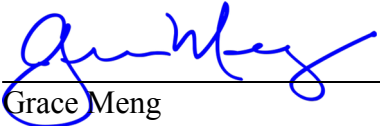
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Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress

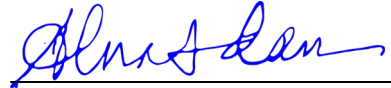


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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress



Troy Carter  
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



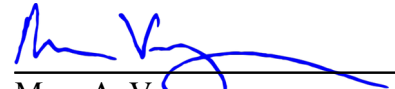
Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.  
Member of Congress



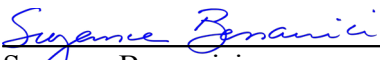
Bonnie Watson Coleman  
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Stephen F. Lynch  
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Marc A. Veasey  
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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



David J. Trone  
Member of Congress