



News from Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis 31st Congressional District of California

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For Immediate Release
June 24, 2002

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SOLIS URGES PRESIDENT BUSH TO GRANT TPS STATUS TO SALVADORANS

WASHINGTON, D.C.-Today, Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis (D-CA) and Congressman Tom Davis (R-VA) sent a joint letter to President Bush requesting an extension of the Temporary State Protection program for Salvadorans for another 18 months.

The Temporary State Protection program permits foreign nationals who have been affected by a natural disaster to temporarily reside and work legally in the United States until their allocated time expires. President Bush signed the Temporary State Protection program last year and it is scheduled to expire September 8th of 2002.

Due to the earthquakes that occurred in 2001, El Salvador is now confronted with the challenge of reconstructing its infrastructure and strengthening its economy. While there has been significant progress made, there is still much more to be done. Recently, the Salvadorian government has asked for an extension of the Temporary State Protection program, declaring that its economy is still weak and the services currently in existence are not adequate to serve the 25,000 Salvadorians that would be returning to their country.

“I hope that President Bush seriously considers our petition, which does have strong support from both political parties. While in El Salvador, I realized that there is still much left to be done to strengthen the economy weakened by the earthquakes. An extension of the TSP is necessary to reconstruct the nation, especially in the areas most damaged by the earthquakes,” stated Congresswoman Solis.

“The monetary contributions of the more than 2000,000 Salvadorians that will benefit from the program’s extension play a very important role in the betterment of the economic and social situation of El Salvador. Reinstating TSP is a very important step in aiding the reconstruction of El Salvador,” concluded the Congresswoman.

The letter sent to President Bush was signed by 33 Congress members, including two Republicans

“I hope that President

It is important this extension be provided to the over 200,000 Salvadorans in this country who currently benefit from it. The country continues to suffer tremendous economic hardship because of the horrific earthquakes that rocked it early last year.