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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE
AND OVERHEAD ARCHITECTURE

April 25, 2016

Dear Mr. President:

Over the past week I met with many Chicagoans who have come from Ecuador or who have loved ones living in Ecuador, and the message I received was clear—the nation and its people have been devastated by the earthquake of April 16, 2016. Just this past weekend, I was in New York and again the dire situation on the ground was conveyed to me. Moved by the deep concern of Ecuadorians, I join many others in the call for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to be extended to the people of Ecuador.

Like other nations, such as Nepal and Haiti in recent years, Ecuador is experiencing widespread devastation in the aftermath of a 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck the country's coast over one week ago. Hundreds upon hundreds of strong tremors and aftershocks have continued since the quake. The death toll has risen to over 650 and 130 people are still missing. Approximately 16,600 people have been injured and over 25,000 are homeless. The search for survivors continues while the nation also begins the lengthy process towards recovery.

The United States Congress created TPS for exactly these types of dire circumstances in foreign countries, when those citizens cannot safely return to their country and are already living in the U.S. Given the magnitude of the destruction, Ecuadorians cannot safely return home. Extending TPS is the compassionate response that would provide the many Ecuadorians throughout our country with much-needed security and stability in this time of personal, familial, and national crisis.

Thank you for your attention to this grave matter.

Sincerely,



Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Jeh Johnson
U.S. Department of Homeland Security