A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the sense of the Council that the Office of the President of the United States and the
United States Congress should act immediately to extend Temporary Protected Status to foreign nationals whose countries are affected by ongoing armed conflicts, environmental disasters, and extraordinary life-threatening conditions.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Sense of the Council in Support of Legislative Action to Protect Temporary Protected Status Resolution of 2017”.

Sec. 2. Findings:

The Council finds that:

(1) Temporary Protected Status ("TPS") was created in 1990 to protect foreign nationals from countries experiencing ongoing armed conflicts, environmental disasters, or extraordinary life-threatening conditions from threats of deportation back to these dangers.

(2) Since 1991, the United States has granted TPS to foreign nationals from Somalia, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Haiti, Syria, Sudan, South Sudan, Yemen, and Nepal, and it has renewed their protected status every 18 months since then.

(3) On May 22, 2017, President Trump threatened a reduction in TPS for Haitian nationals in the United States by reducing the renewal of their protected stay from 18 months to 6 months.

(4) Approximately 300,000 individuals have benefitted from TPS and nearly 32,359 of them reside in the District. The District has one of the highest concentration of TPS beneficiaries in the country.

(5) Beneficiaries of this program are granted limited immigration benefits such as the opportunity to work, go to school, and obtain a driver’s license.

(6) The TPS beneficiaries have contributed to the growth and prosperity of our country’s economy by adding $4.5 billion annually to our gross domestic product.
(7) Terminating TPS will leave nearly 300,000 people vulnerable to deportation, severing familial relationships and possibly damaging our country’s economic strength.

(8) Conditions in designated countries that allow for individuals to gain TPS still remain dangerous and unsafe and deportation would place these individuals and their families in grave risk.

Sec. 3. It is the sense of the Council that United States Congress should act immediately to pass legislation that continues to protect TPS beneficiaries.

Sec. 4. The Secretary to the Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of this resolution, upon its adoption, to the Office of the President of the United States, the Leaders of both the Democratic and Republican party of the United States House of Representatives and of the United States Senate, the Attorney General of the United States, and the Office of the Mayor.

Sec. 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.