COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

2017 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-90-2017

Proposed by Council Members Taveras, Turner, Glaros and Franklin

Introduced by Council Members Taveras, Turner, Glaros, Franklin, Davis and Lehman

Co-Sponsors

Date of Introduction October 31, 2017

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION concerning

Extension of Temporary Protected Status and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

For the purpose of conveying the County Council’s support of extending temporary protected status and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) for all affected groups.

WHEREAS, Prince George’s County, Maryland is home to a large immigrant population that makes our community and our economy strong and vibrant; and

WHEREAS, Prince George’s County immigrant residents include tens of thousands of individuals from El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Haiti, Syria and other countries around the world who have been granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, nationwide, there are over 300,000 TPS holders, including 195,000 individuals from El Salvador, with a large concentration that reside in Prince George’s County; and

WHEREAS, TPS provides protection from deportation and employment authorization to individuals from countries that have experienced armed conflict, environmental disaster, or other life-threatening conditions; and

WHEREAS, under federal law, TPS protections must be regularly renewed to remain in effect; and

WHEREAS, TPS protections for nationals of El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Sudan, and Somalia have been in place for approximately 20 years and TPS protections have recently been extended to residents of Haiti and Syria following devastating natural and man-made disasters in those countries; and

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration has indicated that it is strongly considering
declining to renew TPS, thereby placing hundreds of thousands of individuals at risk of imminent deportation and depriving them of the means to make a living and support their families; and

WHEREAS, TPS holders have developed deep ties to Prince George’s County community, raising families, starting businesses, buying homes, and making other valuable contributions to our County; and

WHEREAS, conditions in TPS designated countries remain dangerous and unsafe such that deportation to those countries would place individuals and their families at grave risk; and

WHEREAS, an end to TPS would harm the Prince George’s County community by throwing the lives of long-term County residents into chaos, separating parents from their children, and damaging the local economy; and

WHEREAS, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA or Dreamers) is a form of immigration status for young immigrants who were brought to the United States at a young age, are attending school or have successfully completed their education, and successfully passed background checks. The program has allowed young immigrants to work and study and has protected them from deportation; and

WHEREAS, DACA has been a resounding success. Nearly 800,000 young men and women have been able to contribute to their communities, to work, go to school and to live their lives without fear of being ripped away from their families and from a country they consider home; and

WHEREAS, Maryland has over 9,700 Dreamers who have deep roots throughout the state, including in Prince George’s County, and if immigrant with DACA status are not provided with an alternate option to legalize their status, Maryland will lose more than $500 million annually in Gross Domestic Product; and

WHEREAS, Prince George’s County recognizes the overwhelmingly positive contribution that TPS holders and Dreamers have on our economy, social fabric, diversity and the well-being of our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, that the County Council hereby calls upon President Trump and Department of Homeland Security Secretary Elaine Duke to support refugees escaping war, natural disasters, and violent crime and to renew TPS and DACA protections for all eligible individuals.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the County Council provides a copy of this Resolution to:

Mitch McConnell, U.S. Senate Majority Leader
Charles E. Schumer, U.S. Senate Minority Leader
Benjamin L. Cardin, U.S. Senator for Maryland
Chris Van Hollen, U.S. Senator for Maryland
Paul D. Ryan, U.S. Speaker of the House
Congressman Steny H. Hoyer
Congressman Elijah Cummings
Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger
Congressman John Sarbanes
Congressman John Delaney
Congressman Anthony Brown
Congressman Jamie Raskin
Lawrence J. Hogan Jr., Governor, State of Maryland
Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller
House Speaker Michael E. Busch
Jim Rosapepe, Chair of the Prince George’s County Senate Delegation
Jay Walker, Chair of the Prince George’s County House Delegation.

Adopted this _____ day of ___________, 2017.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: ___________________________________
Derrick Leon Davis
Chairman

ATTEST:

Redis C. Floyd
Clerk of the Council