

and sisters, a crisis that persists and is characterized by the displacement of their country of origin. This situation is the result of a legacy of Colonialism and an interaction of internal armed conflicts, institutional collapse, natural disasters and extreme socioeconomic conditions, which has forced them to emigrate not only to the United States of America, but also to several Latin American countries.

Through this experience, I was able to understand firsthand that, like many of us, immigrants from other countries are looking for opportunities to improve our lives, those of their families and those of this nation. There are numerous factors that drive us to emigrate to this great nation, where we begin to develop a sense of belonging.

I have had the privilege of meeting numerous highly trained Haitian women, selfless mothers committed to the education of their children, as well as men who practice various professions, such as plumbing, masonry, accounting, teaching, agricultural work, electricity, construction, textile and other industries. I have heard many of them express their desire to work hard to get their families ahead and provide them with a promising future. I have also met young people who, although they miss their small island, have aspirations to study, work and, eventually, return to contribute to the development of their homeland. Both young people and adults are deeply affected by sadness, but they are willing to fight once their immigration status is regularized. Who has the right to undermine the scarce peace they are trying to build in this great nation, which has always been benevolent and balanced between its humanitarian commitments? Therefore, it is imperative to maintain Temporary Protection Status (TPS) and refugee status, ensuring that they continue to be a humanitarian protection that confers clear rights and obligations. Maintaining TPS, asylum and other status is a matter of humanity and a fundamental right . . .

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on February 2, 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 49, and YEA on Roll Call No. 50.

HONORING THE CAREER AND SERVICE OF BOB CANOVA

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the extraordinary career of Bob Canova as he prepares for retirement after a long and storied career at General Dynamics Electric Boat.

In January 1981, at the age of just twenty years old, Robert "Bob" Canova began a career at General Dynamics Electric Boat that would ultimately span forty-five years of technical excellence and unwavering service. Beginning in an era of traditional drafting—using lead pencils, French curves, and Mylar sheets—Bob evolved alongside the industry,

mastering mainframe programming and modern computer-aided design. His work on the piping systems and subsafe mapping for the Trident, Seawolf, Virginia, and Columbia Class submarines has been vital to the United States Navy and the protection of our Nation for nearly half a century.

Bob's legacy is equally defined by his fierce advocacy for his colleagues in the MDA-UAW Local 571. At the age of twenty-three, he stood as a lone voice in a contested NLRB case during a protracted 1983 to 1984 strike. Representing himself against formidable legal opposition, he secured a landmark ruling that protected the voting rights and seniority of 1,800 strikers, a victory that remains a milestone in labor history.

Throughout his tenure, Bob served in nearly every leadership capacity at Local 571, including Treasurer and President. His dedication to his craft and his members led him to earn a degree in Labor Studies from the University of Connecticut while working full-time, ensuring he could negotiate with the highest level of tactical and legal expertise. His final term as 2nd Vice President concluded with the historic May 2025 contract, which secured transformative wage increases and retirement credits for the next generation of shipbuilders. Bob also was deeply involved in local and national politics, which I personally witnessed and benefited from. He was instrumental in lining up support for candidates like myself, from both the UAW and the Town of Stonington. He faithfully joined me at the factory gates early in the morning during election season to greet fellow workers and listen to their concerns.

As Bob retired on January 30, 2026, we honor a man of profound integrity who spent forty-five years mentoring others, strengthening the union, and ensuring the excellence of the American submarine fleet. This legacy of dedication began at Electric Boat, where he not only built a career but also his life in meeting his wife, Carol. Now married for 31 years, they share a beautiful family with their daughter, Nicole, and son-in-law, Nicholas. We celebrate his transition to a new chapter of service as a volunteer with the United Way of South-eastern Connecticut and his alma mater, Norwich Free Academy.

CELEBRATING THE 173RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 173rd anniversary of the City of Brownsville, Texas. It is an honor to recognize 173 years of growth and resilience in a city defined by its rich history, diversity, and welcoming spirit.

Founded in 1853 following the conclusion of the Mexican-American War, Brownsville has been shaped by the shared history of the settlers and Tejanos alike. Before its incorporation, the area was part of the greater Matamoros region across the Rio Grande River. The city was named in honor of General Jacob Brown, who gave his life defending Fort Brown during the conflict.

Following its establishment, Brownsville quickly emerged as a center for trade and cot-

ton production, growing into a vital regional hub linking the United States and Mexico. The city also played a role in shaping national history, as events in the region helped launch the career of future President Zachary Taylor.

Over the past 173 years, Brownsville has experienced profound change and growth, and today it stands as a testament to the strength, determination, and promise of South Texas.

Mr. Speaker, cities like Brownsville are what make our Nation strong and vibrant. I am proud to represent Brownsville and the Rio Grande Valley. I congratulate the city on 173 years of success, and I look forward to many more years of progress to come.

CELEBRATING THE LEGENDARY CAREER OF COLIN "MAC" MACDONALD

HON. PETE STAUBER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colin "Mac" MacDonald, a community pillar and legendary broadcaster in Brainerd, Minnesota.

For over 30 years, Mac has been the trusted voice of the Brainerd Lakes Area. He began on the Power Loon in 1992, advanced to morning co-host in 1997, and for 25 years partnered with his friend Danny Wild—until Danny's passing in 2025.

Since 1994, Mac called play-by-play for Brainerd Warriors sports, covering over 2,000 games in football, basketball, hockey, baseball, and more. In 2017, he was inducted into the Brainerd High School Hall of Fame for his remarkable coverage.

Off the air, Colin served tirelessly—co-chairing United Way campaigns, emceeing the Walk for Diabetes and Special Olympics Polar Plunge, and coaching youth softball and baseball for over 15 years.

Mac delivered his final broadcast on 107.5 The Power Loon on January 31, 2026. I thank him for his dedication, leadership, and heart. The Brainerd Lakes Area community is better because of Colin MacDonald.

I congratulate Mac on an extraordinary career.

COMMUNITY TESTIMONY DURING THE CONGRESSIONAL FIELD HEARING ON HAITIAN TPS TERMINATION

HON. AYANNA PRESSLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, as part of the Congressional Field Hearing on Haitian TPS Termination held in the Massachusetts 7th Congressional District, members of the community were invited to discuss the importance of extending TPS for Haitian nationals. Therefore, I include in the RECORD their testimonies:

DEAR HONORABLE SENATOR MARKEY AND HONORABLE CONGRESSWOMAN PRESSLEY: In response to the slated termination of Temporary Protected Status ("TPS") for Haitian nationals on February 3, 2026, Rian Immigrant Center respectfully submits the following remarks.

Rian Immigrant Center (“Rian”) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Boston, Massachusetts and serving immigrant and refugee communities across the Commonwealth, primarily through our Immigration Legal Services program. Rian, formerly the Irish Immigration Center and the Irish International Immigrant Center, was founded in 1989 by an Irish nun, Sister Lena Deevy, and a group of volunteer attorneys, to serve Boston’s undocumented Irish community. Over the years, Rian has transformed into a vibrant center serving immigrants and refugees from over 125 countries worldwide, and reflecting the rich diversity of the foreign-born communities of Boston and throughout Massachusetts. In fact, early on in our organizational history, our founder Sister Lena understood the importance of building bridges between Boston’s immigrant communities to find common ground and to forge mutual support; she understood that the success of Boston’s Irish was inextricably linked to the success of all Boston’s immigrant communities.

Currently and for the last several years, Rian serves immigrants and refugees from Haiti as its single largest client group. Twenty-three percent (519/2276 individuals) of all clients served by Rian in 2025 were of Haitian origin. Our clients include:

Haitians who have held TPS since the 2010 earthquake in Haiti that triggered the original Department of State designation, and who have held that status continuously for the past 15 years, forging deep roots in our community. These Haitian neighbors work legally, pay income, sales and other tax, and pay into our Social Security system;

More newly-arrived Haitian families escaping recent and ongoing waves of intolerable unrest in Haiti, seeking peaceful lives and an opportunity to provide safety to their children;

Haitians who were lawfully paroled into the United States to seek asylum from a tremendously backlogged system, who followed proper entry procedures only to now face termination of their protected status;

Haitians with TPS in large family units including U.S. citizen children who have never lived in Haiti and are culturally American; and

Haitians with medical complexities receiving life-saving or life-extending treatment in the Boston area, who would be unable to receive comparable care if returned to Haiti.

TPS is a life-line for Rim’s Haitian client base. It provides protection from removal to a country indisputably in the throes of unrest. It provides access to work authorization, so that protected individuals can lawfully work, support their families, pay taxes to the federal and state government, and contribute to the economy. Most importantly, it is a status authorized by Congress for nationals of countries who cannot safely repatriate. Last year, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Noem announced that she was terminating Haitian TPS because conditions in Haiti no longer supported an ongoing designation. That decision was not based in any honest interpretation of the facts; it is indisputable that Haitian nationals cannot safely repatriate at this time. Rian represents many Haitian-American U.S. citizens petitioning to lawfully bring their spouses and minor children to the U.S. through the established family reunification process. Many of these families have been stuck in limbo and separated for five or more years, as the U.S. embassy remains closed to normal visa operations due to instability and dangerous conditions. The evacuation of consular officers from the U.S. embassy; the suspension of normal consular operations for several years; reports of active gunfire between U.S. Marines guarding

the embassy and violent gang members; and Department of State-issued travel warnings for Haiti all point to the inaccurate, if not flagrantly deceptive nature of Secretary Noem’s TPS termination announcement. To send Haitian citizens back to these actively unsafe conditions, while lying that the conditions support their safe return, would be a humanitarian travesty, one not rooted in reality and without any productive purpose. TPS, established by Congress, exists exactly to protect individuals from returning to such conditions our Haitian community members fear returning to today.

Rian urges Congress to advocate for an extension of TPS based on the indisputable facts on the ground. A country presumably following the rule of law cannot allow decisions on TPS terminations to be made wholly without factual support. Beyond this, we urge Congress to find a permanent solution for Haitian TPS holders who are so clearly at the whim of an anti-immigrant administration. Our Haitian neighbors in Greater Boston are tax-paying, law-abiding and productive community members, caring for our children and our elderly, staffing our reputable hospitals, and raising the next generation of U.S. citizen children ready to positively contribute to our society. We lose nothing, and stand only to gain, by allowing TPS holders a pathway to permanent status, or at least ongoing protection while the emergency conditions in Haiti exist, as Congress intended in establishing TPS in the first place.

Respectfully submitted,

JACQUELINE KELLEY,

On behalf of Rian Immigrant Center.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: My name is Ruthzee Louijeune, and I am an At-Large City Councilor representing all of Boston, Massachusetts. I submit this testimony, not only for myself, but on behalf of the Haitian residents of Boston whose lives, families, and livelihoods are directly threatened by the termination of Temporary Protected Status (TPS). Boston is home to approximately 16,000 Haitian residents, making it the 2nd largest Haitian community per capita in the United States. The decision to end TPS would be a devastating disruption to the social and economic fabric of our city.

In recent weeks and months, my office has been inundated with calls, emails, and walk-ins from constituents who are afraid, confused, and desperate for guidance regarding TPS. They are asking about legal resources, immigration attorneys, emergency funds, and whether it is safe to continue going to work. Many are afraid to leave their homes. Others are facing the immediate loss of income because their work permits have expired and they are legally barred from working, despite having jobs and employers who need them.

One constituent told us, “My main concern is that I don’t want to be dragged on the street and locked up. I am thinking of leaving, but I can’t go back to Haiti. Can you please help me find another country to go to? I don’t know if I will be able to sell my home before the due dates. I don’t know what to do for my son. Please help me.”

Another constituent asked our office, “Do you think I should remove my money from the bank?”

These are only a few samples that showcase the widespread fear, panic, and instability being experienced by families who have spent years building safe and productive lives in Boston. Ending TPS will result in the breaking apart of families, including households where children are U.S. citizens and parents are long-time residents and workers in our city. Policies that force parents to choose between deportation and leav-

ing their children behind is an unamerican value that we must vigorously fight against.

The termination of TPS also threatens Boston’s economy as they are our essential workers in healthcare, food service, construction, childcare, transportation, and home health care. As a result, we have begun to hear that employers across the city are already experiencing related workforce shortages.

TPS exists precisely for circumstances like Haiti’s political instability, violence, and brutality among other economic and ecological disasters.

Our office continues to receive urgent calls from constituents seeking referrals and emergency financial assistance. The silver lining is that neighbors are stepping in to help one another with assistance for rent, food, and basic necessities, even while community organizations and faith groups are stretched beyond capacity trying to respond to this growing crisis.

Boston has long been a city that values immigrants and recognizes their role in our shared future. Please find compassion and empathy to ensure families are not forced into the shadows, separated from their loved ones, or pushed into harm’s way by the termination of TPS. Everyone deserves stability and the opportunity to build a safe life.

I sincerely urge the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to consider extending Temporary Protected Status for Haitians to remain safe, employed, and united with their families.

Sincerely,

RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE,

Boston City Councilor At-Large.

My father was a proud Jewish American and serviceman who fought in Okinawa. During the last years of his life, he was bound to a wheelchair and unable to perform daily tasks independently. The man who bathed him, dressed him, prepared his food, pushed his wheelchair and drove him to appointments was a skilled and compassionate person. Most of all, this man respected and showed love for my dad. He lived an honest life, worked 24 hours a day, 7 days a week—and performed a job that was desperately needed. This man who kept my father alive was an immigrant with temporary status.

Removing temporary status from people who fled hardship, seek a better life, and contribute to our families and communities is both mean-spirited and illogical. What kind of a nation are we? My father would be ashamed of this country where some of his relatives found refuge before and after the Holocaust. What kind of a nation are we if we do not to allow those seeking safety or a better life to live among us and do the work they choose, often jobs that our citizens aren’t choosing? Taking away TPS status makes no sense on either a moral or practical level. It is hateful and contrary to the country my father fought for and was so proud of.

TO SEN. ED MARKEY, REP. AYANNA PRESSLEY, AND WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Haitian Temporary Protected Status is critical to the safety and stability of families across Boston. At a time when Haiti continues to face widespread violence, political instability, and humanitarian crises, ending or weakening TPS would place families in harm’s way and destabilize our neighborhoods.

In Boston, Haitian TPS holders are essential workers in our healthcare system, schools, childcare centers, construction sites, restaurants, and small businesses. They are parents of Boston Public Schools students, renters and homeowners, and long-time residents who contribute every day to

the strength of our city. Treating their status as temporary ignores the reality of their lives and their deep roots here.

I stand with Boston's Haitian community, local advocates, and faith leaders calling for an extension of Haitian TPS and permanent protections.

Our city is stronger when families can live without fear and we will continue to stand with immigrant communities who call Boston home.

Respectfully,

JULIA MEJIA,
Boston City Councilor At-Large.

My name is Maria Teresa Nagel, I am the Director of Immigrant Affairs in the City of Somerville, MA, and I am here in strong opposition to the termination of TPS for Haitians.

Haitians have a long and proud history of commitment to the United States, dating back to the Chasseurs—Haitian soldiers who fought alongside U.S. forces during the Revolutionary War. Since then, more than one million Haitians have made this country their home. Today, over 80,000 Haitians live in Massachusetts alone, where they play an outsized and indispensable role in our healthcare and education systems.

They are our nurses, home health aides, and doctors. They are our teachers, teachers' assistants, and family liaisons. They care for our children, our elders, and our most vulnerable neighbors. They are essential to our economy, our communities, and the cultural fabric of this nation.

After the catastrophic earthquake in 2010—an event that affected more than three million people and claimed over 200,000 lives—the United States granted Temporary Protected Status to Haitians already living here. At the time, the Secretary of Homeland Security described the disaster as one of "historic proportions" and acknowledged that the "personal safety" of Haitians would be endangered if they were forced to return. Sixteen years later, Haiti continues to endure extraordinary hardship. Corruption, devastating hurricanes, political instability, and widespread civil unrest have only deepened the crisis. The dangers that once justified TPS have not disappeared, they have intensified. Meanwhile, the lives of Haitian TPS holders have become inseparable from our own. They have built families, careers, and communities here. This is their home. Ending TPS for Haiti would tear 330,000 people—our neighbors, coworkers, parents, and caregivers—from the communities they sustain. It would destabilize families, devastate local economies, and severely weaken critical sectors like healthcare, retail, and education that all of us rely on. And it would do so in direct contradiction of the law, with full knowledge that the extraordinary and unsafe conditions in Haiti persist.

No one, no one, will benefit from ending TPS for Haitians this February. The consequences will be profound and far-reaching, and the cost will be borne by all of us. Most of all, it will mark a failure of our moral responsibility and our legal obligations.

I urge the federal government to reconsider this termination—for the safety of our neighbors, the stability of our economy, and

the values we claim as the greatest nation on Earth.

Thank you.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DAVID
EMERSON MITCHELL

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of David Emerson Mitchell, who passed away on January 2, 2026, after a 15-year battle with multiple myeloma, a rare blood cancer. He was 75.

David spent his life working on issues that mattered—with people he cared about—to leave the world a little better than he found it; and he did. It was David's own battle with cancer that prompted him, in 2016, to found Patients For Affordable Drugs. Confronted firsthand with a drug pricing system that put life-saving medicines out of reach for millions of Americans, David became a voice for patients who, for too long, have faced immeasurable hurdles to access the medications they need. His goal was both simple and audacious: to hold drug companies accountable for extreme, nonnegotiable prices that ignored patients' ability to pay.

Under his leadership, Patients For Affordable Drugs became a trusted, bipartisan force for reform, centering patient voices in a debate long dominated by corporate interests and helping change the trajectory of drug pricing in this country.

Over nearly a decade, Patients For Affordable Drugs worked with a coalition of allies to push for meaningful reform nationwide. That work paid off in 2022 with the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act. For the first time in history, Medicare was granted the authority to negotiate lower drug prices for America's seniors. Undoubtedly, David's work and the advocacy of Patients For Affordable Drugs played a major role in delivering the most significant change to our Nation's drug pricing policy in generations. This year alone, seniors are expected to save \$1.5 billion in out-of-pocket expenses on prescription drugs. For that, I will always be grateful to him.

Beyond this landmark achievement, David was a central voice before Congress. He testified before the health committees in both the House and Senate numerous times, representing patients across the country struggling to afford their medications. He organized patients to visit with their Members of Congress and to share their personal stories. It was his ability to connect the realities of everyday Americans with policy changes that made him such an effective advocate.

He was described as "the face of the opposition to the pharmaceutical industry in Washington." His advocacy was marked by clarity, discipline, and moral focus. When the entrenched perspective was that high drug prices were necessary to support innovation, David countered with a simple message that will continue to resonate: "Drugs don't work if people can't afford them."

Before founding Patients For Affordable Drugs, he helped shape some of the Nation's most effective public-health campaigns, including efforts to reduce drunk driving, increase

seatbelt and child safety seat use, and improve roadway safety. Those campaigns saved countless lives, often quietly and outside the spotlight, but their impact was profound.

David's genius was not just in identifying public health problems, but in knowing how to solve them—and how to build the momentum needed to drive real solutions. He helped demonstrate that patients are not passive observers of policy, but essential participants in shaping it.

Those of us who knew David and worked with him are so grateful to him for his tenacious advocacy and all that he accomplished. David Mitchell lived a distinguished life in service to others, and the world is safer, fairer, and more humane because he was in it. I am hopeful his work will continue to inspire countless others to channel their own challenges into advocacy and reform, just as he did. His legacy will endure in the lives he touched, the patients he empowered, and the laws he helped change.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the distinguished life of David Mitchell. Those of us who knew David and worked with him are so grateful to him for his tenacious advocacy and all that he accomplished. David Mitchell lived a distinguished life in service to others, and the world is safer, fairer, and more humane because he was in it. I am hopeful his work will continue to inspire countless others to channel their own challenges into advocacy and reform, just as he did. His legacy will endure in the lives he touched, the patients he empowered, and the laws he helped change.

RECOGNIZING MR. CLARK D.
THOMAS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Clark D. Thomas, a special employee of the USDA Rural Development—Missouri State Office, who recently retired after many dedicated years of service.

Mr. Thomas was a remarkable civil servant for nearly six decades and deserves recognition for such an exemplary career in federal service. Clark began his federal service with the former Farmer's Home Administration on June 5, 1967. His federal service spanned 58 years, 3 months, and 25 days until his retirement on September 30, 2025. During his federal career, Clark served two years active duty in the Army as a First Lieutenant and was deployed to Vietnam. Upon returning from Vietnam, Clark continued his federal service at Farmer's Home Administration and then USDA Rural Development. During his tenure as a Program Director, a role he served in until his retirement in September 2025, Clark was responsible for more than 3,700 obligations totaling more than \$2.4 billion in assistance to rural Missouri communities and businesses.

Over the course of Clark's 58 years of service to the state of Missouri, many changes have occurred, but his consistent dedication remained. From water programs to broadband deployment, Clark made sure rural communities had the infrastructure needed to thrive. The unwavering support Clark received from