

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 8, 2015

The Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretaries Johnson and Kerry:

We write to ask that you consider extending the 180-day registration period for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for citizens of Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone residing in the United States. The current registration period will end on May 20, 2015; and we urge you to extend the deadline to ensure that citizens from the nations ravaged by Ebola can remain safely in the United States until the situation in West Africa has sufficiently improved.

We commend you for designating Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone for TPS. The outbreak of the Ebola virus disease has spread devastation and grave health risks across West Africa, and the decision to designate these countries will save lives. In March, the World Health Organization announced that Ebola had killed over 10,000 people since last year's initial outbreak. Although there has been a decline in the rate of new cases, the threat of Ebola remains. Until the danger posed by Ebola is mitigated, the United States must continue to keep the citizens of these countries out of harm's way.


Many African immigrants live in the U.S. and in our state of New Jersey. The need for more education and assistance in applying for TPS was apparent at a recent TPS workshop held in New Jersey and cosponsored by our offices. Extending the TPS deadline would support the ongoing humanitarian relief efforts as it both protects individuals who would be forced to return to these countries and allows these countries more time to recover before accepting nationals. It is also important to note that granting TPS does not endanger our security. An alien is ineligible for TPS if he or she has a criminal background or poses a threat to national security.

The United States has demonstrated its commitment to assisting these West African nations through foreign aid, military assistance, and relief supplies. Extending TPS would be a valuable assistance to the citizens of these nations residing in the United States. Therefore we respectfully

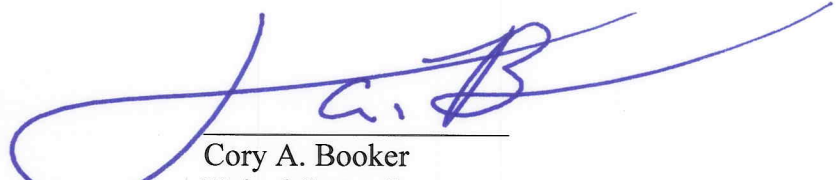
request that you act swiftly and extend the TPS registration deadline for citizens of Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone to ensure the safety of as many lives as possible.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator