



For Immediate Release:
September 22, 2023

STATEMENT: Biden’s Decision to Expand Temporary Protective Status a Welcome Step Towards Helping our Newest Neighbors Support Themselves and Their Families

CHICAGO - The following is a statement from the Illinois Latino Agenda (ILA), a coalition committed to advancing the wellbeing of Latinos throughout Illinois and advocating for equitable representation of Latinos throughout our state government, in response to the Biden Administration’s decision to expand Temporary Protective Status (TPS) to thousands of Venezuelan Migrants that arrived before July 31, 2023:

“The Illinois Latino Agenda has been advocating for long-term solutions to address the migrant crisis in our city and throughout Illinois, and we welcome President Biden’s decision to expand Temporary Protective Status, which will help thousands of our newest neighbors access employment opportunities while they wait for their asylum hearings.

“Having access to employment opportunities will allow new arrivals to start supporting themselves, their families, and contributing to our economy by helping fill many of the job vacancies in frontline industries. It is a monumental step in becoming self-sufficient and an integral part of our economy.

“While we celebrate President Biden’s decision, our long-time migrants shouldn’t be forgotten and we will continue advocating for further expansion of their rights so that they too can be protected from exploitation, mistreatment, theft and low wages in their workplaces.

“This decision helps less than [5,000 of the Venezuelan migrants](#) that are already in Chicago and buses continue to come, and we urge the federal government to grant more funding to support the growing number of new arrivals and the organizations that are assisting them with their immediate and long-term needs, and for continued intergovernmental approaches that will help ensure all Illinoisans have access to jobs and long-term housing.”

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