

OVER 125 ORGANIZATIONS AND NEARLY 50 LEGAL EXPERTS CALL UPON BIDEN ADMINISTRATION TO DESIGNATE MEXICO FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS

TPS would provide immediate relief and work permits to 5 million immigrants

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 17, 2021 CONTACT: jose@masadc.com

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today, over 125 national, state, and local faith, immigration, advocacy, labor, and civil rights organizations delivered a <u>letter</u> to President Biden and U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas urging the administration to designate Mexico for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) as a result of the country's worsening COVID-19 crisis. At the same time, nearly 50 legal experts sent a <u>letter</u> to the administration outlining the Secretary's legal and statutory authority to designate Mexico for TPS. TPS is a form of immigration protection that provides work permits and protection from deportation for immigrants when it is too dangerous to return them to their home country.

- Read the **organizational** letter <u>HERE</u>.
- Read the **legal experts** letter <u>HERE</u>.
- Read the **fact sheet** on <u>HERE</u>.

Jose Magaña-Salgado, Campaign Director, #TPS4Mexico, stated: "There is absolutely *nothing* preventing the Biden administration from immediately designating Mexico for TPS and providing work permits and protection from deportation for nearly five million undocumented Mexican immigrants. Congress provided broad authority for the DHS Secretary to utilize TPS and Mexico's COVID-19 crisis—which is and will continue to be magnitudes worse than most countries—provides a legally sound ground for a designation. Unlike other parts of our immigration laws, Congress did not write in a numerical limit or cap regarding the number of people who could benefit and—particularly importantly in light of continued injunctions by Trump-appointed judges—precluded most legal and court challenges to the exercise of TPS. A failure to utilize TPS in this manner would represent an abdication of President Joe Biden's commitment to provide relief to our nation's immigrant population and undo the horrific excesses of the previous administration."

###