

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 22, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
301 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Mullin and Secretary Rubio:

We strongly urge you to issue an 18-month extension and redesignation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Ukraine prior to the impending October 19, 2026, termination date. Ukraine is currently in the fifth year of a large-scale war with Russia, which has led to ongoing civilian casualties, significant damage to critical infrastructure and the displacement of broad swaths of the population. An extension of TPS for Ukraine would protect current TPS beneficiaries from being forced to return to an active war zone, while a redesignation would expand those protections to the population of Ukrainian nationals who arrived after October 20, 2023.

Ukraine was initially designated for TPS on April 19, 2022, on the basis of ongoing armed conflict and extraordinary and temporary conditions caused by Russia's military actions within the country. In its designation, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in consultation with the U.S. Department of State, cited regular artillery attacks and airstrikes by Russia's military forces, serious human rights abuses and the widespread destruction of critical infrastructure. Subsequent reviews of in-country conditions found that the situation in the country had not sufficiently improved; accordingly, TPS for Ukraine was extended and redesignated through April 19, 2025, and extended once more beginning on April 20, 2025.

The war in Ukraine—the largest conventional military action in Europe since World War II—is ongoing, as are the same extraordinary and temporary conditions that warrant the continued protection of Ukrainian nationals currently residing in the United States. International observers report a trend of steadily increasing civilian casualties from year to year, with approximately 17,000 civilian deaths and more than 50,000 civilian injuries since the outbreak of the war in 2022. These casualties, coupled with significant damage to civilian infrastructure, constrained access to health care and substantial population displacement have created a profound crisis, with approximately 10.8 million Ukrainians in need of humanitarian assistance. The facts on the ground paint a clear picture: sending Ukrainians back now would risk returning them to life-threatening conditions.

Protecting the approximately 101,000 Ukrainian TPS holders currently living in the United States is a humanitarian imperative, but also a sound economic decision. Thanks to the work authorization granted by their TPS status, Ukrainian TPS holders have contributed approximately \$2.6 billion to our economy each year and have provided approximately \$716 million in taxes annually. In States like Illinois, thousands of Ukrainian TPS holders make our communities stronger not only through their rich cultural contributions, but also through their participation in

critical sectors, including transportation, health care and construction. Terminating TPS for this population risks disrupting these industries, increasing costs for American consumers by forcing thousands of experienced workers out of their jobs.

Current conditions in Ukraine clearly merit the continuation of TPS status. The ongoing war has caused a humanitarian crisis and damage to critical civilian infrastructure has left many with limited or no access to heat, electricity or medical services. Ukrainian nationals cannot safely return at this time, and allowing TPS to terminate on October 19, 2026, would risk sending more than one hundred thousand individuals back to an active war zone. Ukrainian TPS holders contribute greatly to our communities, both culturally and economically. To ensure that eligible Ukrainian nationals currently in the United States can continue living and working safely while conditions in their home country remain perilous, we urge you issue an extension and redesignation of TPS for Ukraine.

Sincerely,



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



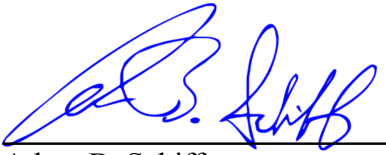
Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



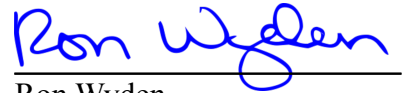
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Senate
Foreign Relations Committee



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



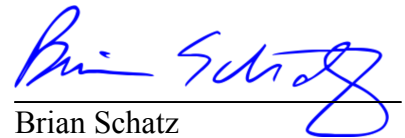
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



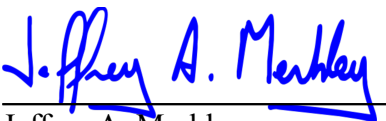
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



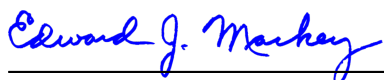
Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



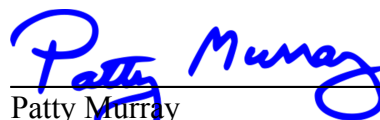
Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator



Andy Kim
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Tina Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tina" and the last name "Smith" clearly distinguishable.

Tina Smith

United States Senator