



IMMIGRATION

THE ISSUE: AB 1862 Immigration services: grants (Santiago, D-Los Angeles, & Carrillo, D-Los Angeles). This bill would appropriate \$10 million to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to provide immigration services to individuals who are current or former recipients of the federal Temporary Protected Status (TPS) program. **(SUPPORT)**

“The presence of brothers and sisters from different cultures should be celebrated as a gift to the Church.”

**US Bishops,
Welcoming the
Stranger Among Us:
Unity in Diversity**

HISTORY & BACKGROUND

The Secretary of Homeland Security may designate a country for TPS if conditions in the country are unsafe, or in certain circumstances, where the country is unable to handle the return of its nationals adequately. In November 2017, the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security announced an end to TPS for nearly 60,000 Haitians and 2,500 Nicaraguans. On January 8, 2018, the Secretary also terminated TPS designation for El Salvador, leaving approximately 262,000 Salvadorians without legal protections by the fall of 2019.

TPS grantees are not subject to deportation and have authorization to work legally in the U.S. Although TPS does not automatically lead to permanent resident status or citizenship, it does not prevent individuals from applying for nonimmigrant status, filing for adjustment of status, or applying for other immigration benefit or protection.

Catholic Charities of California, in partnership with “One California,” is a recipient of past funding from CDSS to provide a plethora of free immigration services and would be able to continue to do so with this funding as the debate on their status proceeds. The services include assistance for immigration remedies, naturalization for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), education and outreach, along with providing no-cost legal representation for unaccompanied minors.

CHURCH TEACHING

The Catholic Church in the U.S. is an immigrant church with a long history of embracing diverse newcomers and providing assistance and pastoral care to immigrants, migrants, refugees, and people on the move. Our church has responded to Christ’s call for us to “welcome the stranger among us,” for in this encounter with the immigrant, the migrant and the refugee in our midst, we encounter Christ.

TALKING POINTS

- ▶ These Salvadoran TPS recipients are parents to 190,000 U.S. born children who are US citizens. Entire generations have grown up only knowing the U.S. as home.
- ▶ Those who cannot find a way to adjust their residency here in the U.S. will return to countries still affected by natural disasters, environmental challenges, food insecurity, and high unemployment and crime rates.
- ▶ Families will be torn apart if the federal government forces parents to leave the United States.
- ▶ Moreover, removal of this population will hurt the economy. Nearly 90 percent of the TPS Salvadoran population participates actively in the workplace and a quarter of them have mortgages.