

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 11, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

On June 5, we sent the attached letter requesting that your administration designate Lebanon for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) in response to the country's regional conflict-driven crisis, growing domestic food insecurity, economic collapse, and a stalled Presidential selection process.¹ We appreciate you authorizing Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) for Lebanese nationals in the United States on July 26, 2024.²

In the months since our request, the armed conflict between Hezbollah and Israel has only intensified and worsened the humanitarian emergency. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is reporting increased displacement.³ Since our last letter, the Department of State has updated its travel advisory to a Level 4: Do Not Travel, stating that "Lebanon's security environment has become even more volatile and unpredictable."⁴ The U.S. Embassy is providing crisis support and currently assisting those U.S. citizens and their families who wish to depart Lebanon given the developments on the ground.⁵

¹ U.S. Senate, *Letter to DHS Secretary Mayorkas and Secretary of State Blinken Requesting TPS for Lebanon*, <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/Peters-Letter-Urging-DHS-State-Department-to-Designate-Temporary-Protected-Status-for-Individuals-from-Lebanon.pdf> (June 5, 2024).

² The White House, *Memorandum on the Deferred Enforced Departure for Certain Lebanese Nationals*, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2024/07/26/memorandum-on-the-deferred-enforced-departure-for-certain-lebanese-nationals/> (July 26, 2024).

³ USAID Press Release, *The United States Announces Humanitarian Assistance to Support Populations Impacted by the Conflict in Lebanon*, <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/oct-04-2024-united-states-announces-humanitarian-assistance-support-populations-impacted-conflict-lebanon> (Oct. 4, 2024).

⁴ Department of State, *Travel Advisories, Lebanon Travel Advisory*, <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/lebanon-travel-advisory.html> (Sept. 28, 2024).

⁵ Department of State, *Crisis Support for U.S. Citizens in Lebanon*, <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/us-citizens-requesting-support-in-lebanon.html> (Oct. 4, 2024).

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
October 11, 2024
Page 2

Given these worsening country conditions and the potential for continued crisis, we respectfully reiterate our request for your administration to designate Lebanon for TPS to protect Lebanese nationals currently in the United States. We also urge you to swiftly issue the Department of Homeland Security implementation guidance for DED.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent request.

Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs



Richard J. Durbin
Chair
Committee on the Judiciary



Benjamin L. Cardin
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations

cc: The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken
Secretary
Department of State