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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

February 27, 2026

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane SW
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Noem:

We urge you to immediately reverse your February 13, 2026, decision to terminate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Yemen, and to extend and redesignate TPS for Yemeni nationals given that conditions in Yemen continue to pose a serious threat to personal safety. This decision to terminate TPS will force hundreds of hard-working individuals, including a significant number in Michigan, who contribute to our economy and communities to risk their lives by returning to a country still in an ongoing armed conflict.

Yemen was initially designated for TPS on September 3, 2015, because forcing Yemeni nationals to return to Yemen would pose a serious threat to their personal safety due to the ongoing armed conflict. Following the initial designation, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has either extended, or extended and redesignated, Yemen for TPS multiple times, most recently in 2024.¹ There has been no indication that those circumstances have changed.

After 10 years of war, Yemen continues to face a dire humanitarian crisis. The ongoing armed conflict, economic collapse, food insecurity, and the breakdown of essential services have left millions of civilians in urgent need of assistance. An estimated 4.8 million people are currently displaced, and more than 19.5 million people are in dire need of humanitarian aid leading the country closer to the risk of a large-scale famine.² Only around 25% of individuals' needs are currently covered, leaving millions without access to lifesaving assistance, including health care, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene, cash assistance, and protection services.³ On

¹ U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services: DHS Terminates Temporary Protected Status for Yemen (Feb. 13, 2026).

² International Organization for Migration: IOM Sounds Alarm as Displacement in Yemen Soard (Jan. 30, 2026).

³ *Id.*

January 8, 2026, Stéphane Dujarric, Spokesperson for United Nations Secretary- General António Guterres, cautioned that the situation in Yemen remains "extremely dire," with millions of civilians facing acute food insecurity and a collapse of essential services."⁴ According to the ICRC, the humanitarian situation is worsening, with 70% of the population reliant on humanitarian aid to survive and more than 80% of Yemenis living below the poverty line.⁵

Further, on January 22, 2025, during President Trump's first days in office, he signed Executive Order (E.O.) 14175 setting in motion a process for Ansar Allah, also known as the Houthis, to be considered for designation as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO), consistent with section 219 of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1189).⁶ According to the E.O., the Houthis have facilitated numerous attacks on civilian infrastructure since they took control of "most Yemeni population centers by force from the legitimate Yemeni government in 2014-2015" and "...attacked commercial vessels transiting Bab al-Mandeb more than 100 times, killing at least four civilian sailors..." The E.O. also stated, "the Houthis' activities threaten the security of American civilians and personnel in the Middle East, the safety of our closest regional partners, and the stability of global maritime trade."⁷ Later, on March 4, 2025, the Department of State officially designated the Houthis as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) citing the President's EO 14175 for its rationale.⁸ Then, starting in March 2025, the President ordered a series of major airstrikes against the Houthi rebels in Yemen citing they were funded by Iran, attacked US aircraft, targeted our troops and Allies and acted in "piracy, violence, and terrorism" that had cost "billions" and put lives at risk.⁹ These facts make clear that the conditions in Yemen have not improved.

At this time, considering the ongoing and escalating armed conflict, as well as the safety and humanitarian risks, Yemeni nationals currently present in the United States should not be forced to return. Extending and redesignating Yemen for TPS would enable Yemeni nationals currently in the United States, including business owners, workers, students, taxpayers, and

⁴ UN Warns of Worsening Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen, Renews Call for Political Solution, YemenOnline (Jan. 8, 2026) (www.yemenonline.info/special-reports/11338).

⁵ International Committee of the Red Cross, Yemen (www.icrc.org/en/where-we-work/yemen) (accessed Feb. 18, 2026).

⁶ Exec. Order No. 14175, 90 Fed. Reg. 8639 (Jan. 22, 2025).

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ Department of State: Designation of Ansarallah as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (Mar. 4, 2025).

⁹ US launches waves of air strikes on Yemen's Houthis, BBC News (Mar. 16, 2025) (www.bbc.com/news/articles/c05mvr3j3yro).

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community members who contribute positively to local economies and civic life, to be able to remain safely in the United States and to work legally to support themselves and their families.

We urge you to extend and redesignate Yemen for TPS to protect Yemeni nationals in the United States without delay – in accordance with the law, facts on the ground, and America's longstanding commitment to humane immigration policy.

Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters

United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs



Elissa Slotkin

United States Senator