

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116-

16

OFFERED BY MR. DIAZ-BALART OF FLORIDA

Add, at the end of the bill, the following (and conform the table of contents):

1 **TITLE III—VENEZUELAN TPS**

2 **SEC. 301. FINDINGS.**

3 Congress makes the following findings:

4 (1) Venezuela is enduring an unprecedented
5 economic, humanitarian, security, and refugee crisis,
6 consisting of extreme food and medicine shortages,
7 severe infant and child malnutrition, rampant crime,
8 and government-sponsored repression.

9 (2) Venezuela's economic crisis continues
10 unabated and the International Monetary Fund
11 projects that inflation in Venezuela could reach an
12 annual rate of 10,000,000 percent in 2019.

13 (3) In 2017, the Office of the High Commis-
14 sioner for Human Rights reported the deaths of 124
15 persons that could be attributed to violations of the
16 right to freedom of peaceful assembly.

17 (4) From September 2017 through April 2018,
18 a review of pharmacies in five major cities shows a

1 shortage of nearly 85 percent of medicine essential
2 to treat four of the most recurrent causes of mor-
3 bidity in the country, diarrhea, respiratory tract in-
4 fections, diabetes, and high blood pressure.

5 (5) As evidence of the significant effect that
6 Venezuela's economic crisis has on public health,
7 Venezuela's Health Ministry reported that in
8 2016—

9 (A) there was a 30-percent increase in the
10 infant mortality rate; and

11 (B) there was a 60-percent increase in the
12 maternal mortality rate.

13 (6) According to the United Nations Human
14 Rights Office of the High Commissioner, Venezuelan
15 intelligence and security forces have increasingly
16 used arbitrary arrests and detentions to repress and
17 intimidate civil society, political opponents, and any
18 voices of dissent.

19 (7) Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, the United Nations
20 High Commissioner for Human Rights, stated, "The
21 failure to hold security forces accountable for such
22 serious human rights violations suggests that the
23 rule of law is virtually absent in Venezuela."

24 (8) According to the United Nations High Com-
25 missioner for Human Rights, since 2014 more than

1 1,500,000 Venezuelans have fled the country for
2 reasons including violence, political oppression, and
3 the ongoing humanitarian crisis.

4 **SEC. 302. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

5 It is the sense of the Congress that—

6 (1) Venezuela’s economic, humanitarian, secu-
7 rity, and refugee crisis has resulted in extraordinary
8 and temporary conditions that currently prevent
9 Venezuelan nationals from safely returning to Ven-
10 ezuela; and

11 (2) Venezuela should be designated under sub-
12 section (b)(1)(C) of section 244 of the Immigration
13 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a) for a period
14 of 18 months to permit nationals of Venezuela to be
15 eligible for temporary protected status in accordance
16 with such section.

17 **SEC. 303. DESIGNATION FOR PURPOSES OF GRANTING**
18 **TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS.**

19 (a) DESIGNATION.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 244
21 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
22 1254a), Venezuela shall be treated as if it had been
23 designated under subsection (b)(1)(C) of that sec-
24 tion, subject to the provisions of this section.

1 (2) PERIOD OF DESIGNATION.—The initial pe-
2 riod of the designation referred to in paragraph (1)
3 shall be for the 18-month period beginning on the
4 date of the enactment of this Act.

5 (b) ALIENS ELIGIBLE.—As a result of the designa-
6 tion made under subsection (a), an alien who is a national
7 of Venezuela is deemed to satisfy the requirements under
8 paragraph (1) of section 244(c) of the Immigration and
9 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(c)), subject to paragraph
10 (3) of such section, if the alien—

11 (1) has been continuously physically present in
12 the United States since the date of the enactment of
13 this Act;

14 (2) is admissible as an immigrant, except as
15 otherwise provided in paragraph (2)(A) of such sec-
16 tion, and is not ineligible for temporary protected
17 status under paragraph (2)(B) of such section; and

18 (3) registers for temporary protected status in
19 a manner established by the Secretary of Homeland
20 Security.

21 (c) CONSENT TO TRAVEL ABROAD.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland
23 Security shall give prior consent to travel abroad, in
24 accordance with section 244(f)(3) of the Immigra-
25 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(f)(3)), to

1 an alien who is granted temporary protected status
2 pursuant to the designation made under subsection
3 (a) if the alien establishes to the satisfaction of the
4 Secretary of Homeland Security that emergency and
5 extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the
6 alien require the alien to depart for a brief, tem-
7 porary trip abroad.

8 (2) TREATMENT UPON RETURN.—An alien re-
9 turning to the United States in accordance with an
10 authorization described in paragraph (1) shall be
11 treated as any other returning alien provided tem-
12 porary protected status under section 244 of the Im-
13 migration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a).

