



## *League of United Latin American Citizens*

### **RESOLUTION TO ADVOCATE FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS FOR THE VENEZUELAN IMMIGRANTS**

**WHEREAS**, LULAC is our Nation's oldest, largest, and most respected Hispano/Latino civil rights organization, established in 1929. Our mission is to seek the advancement of Hispanic Americans in the areas of education, employment, and civil rights; and

**WHEREAS**, LULAC is the biggest, oldest and strongest defender of the civil rights of Hispanic American citizens including the recent influx of Venezuelan immigrants, the fastest growing immigrant community in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Venezuela's economic crisis continues unabated and the International Monetary Fund projects the inflation in Venezuela could reach an annual rate of 10,000,000 percent in 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, As evidence of the significant effect that Venezuela's economic crisis has on public health, Venezuela's Health Ministry reported that in 2016: (a) there was a 30percent increase in the infant mortality rate; and (b) there was a 60-percent increase in the maternal mortality rate; and

**WHEREAS**, According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, on Friday June 07, 2019 more than 4,000,000 Venezuelans have fled the country for reasons including violence, political oppression, and the ongoing humanitarian crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, The United Nations has estimated 5.3 million Venezuelans will have fled by the end of 2019, and only a small fraction of them seek protection in the US; and

**WHEREAS**, The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and United Nation Refugee Agency (UNHCR), described the scale of the exodus as "staggering", with the number of displaced people increasing to a million over a seven-month period, from November 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, The United Nation Children Fund (UNICEF) has shown concerns for millions of children who still remain in the country and need help accessing basic nutrition, and health and education services; and

**WHEREAS**, The number of Venezuelans seeking asylum in the US monthly has increased significantly since 2014. By September 2018, that number had increased by nearly 2,300% with 2,190 applications filed. By April 2019, Venezuela has overtaken China to become the No. 1 country of origin for those claiming asylum in the U.S. upon arrival or shortly after, with nearly 30,000 Venezuelans applying for asylum with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in 2018. Nearly one-third of claims filed with the agency come from Venezuelans, the most of any country by far, according to the latest data; and

**WHEREAS**, Temporary Protection Status (TPS) is a temporary immigration status granted by the United States to eligible nationals of TPS designated countries; and

**WHEREAS**, During the temporary designation period, eligible nationals may remain in the United States and may not be detained by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) based solely on immigration status, and may obtain employment and travel authorization; and

**WHEREAS**, The Secretary of DHS has the authority to provide TPS to immigrants present in the United States who are unable to safely return to their home country due to an ongoing armed conflict, an environmental disaster, or other extraordinary and temporary conditions that prevent safe return. An individual is only eligible for TPS benefits if he or she: (i) establishes continuous physical presence in the United States since the date specified by DHS; (ii) is not subject to one of the criminal, security-related or other bars to TPS; and (iii) applies for TPS benefits in a timely manner; and

**WHEREAS**, A country's TPS designation takes effect on the date the designation is published and may last between six to 18 months, with the possibility of an extension. Once the Secretary of DHS terminates a TPS designation, TPS beneficiaries revert to the same immigration status that had prior to TPS or to any status they may have acquired while registered for TPS; and

**WHEREAS**, The future of tens of thousands of Venezuelan immigrants in the United States remains unclear as the U.S. government has not added Venezuela to the list of TPS designation countries regardless of Venezuela's economic, humanitarian, security, and refugee crisis that has resulted in extraordinary and temporary conditions that currently prevent Venezuelan nationals from safely returning to Venezuela. At the local level, Venezuelans have been incessantly arriving to the United States since 2014 constituting the fastest growing immigrant community; now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that LULAC actively demands the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security and the President of the United States to designate Venezuela under subsection (b)(1)(C) of section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a) for a period of 18 months to permit nationals of Venezuela to be eligible for temporary protected status in accordance with such section

**BE IT RESOLVED** that LULAC strongly support the House of Representatives Bill 549 (H.R.549), Venezuelan TPS Act of 2019, introduced by the United States Congressmen Darrien Soto and Mario Diaz-Balart and Senate Bill 636, introduced by United States Senator Bob Menedez and cosponsored by United States Senator Marco Rubio. Both Bills would designate Venezuela under Section 244 of the Immigration and nationality Act to permit nationals of Venezuela to be eligible for temporary protected status.

Voted & approved by the National Assembly of the 2019 LULAC National Convention on July 13, 2019.



Domingo Garcia  
LULAC National President