

United States Senate

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January 25, 2008

Dr. Emilio T. Gonzales
Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20529
Fax: (202) 272-8118

Dear Director Gonzales:

I appreciate greatly the efforts you and the Department have undertaken in the past to extend Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Somalia.

Today I write to request another extension. This is a matter of some urgency because the current TPS period will expire on March 17, 2008. I believe current conditions in Somalia certainly merit another extension of *at least* eighteen months, since that country today is even more dangerous than it was the last time an extension was granted.

The United States of America has been the beacon of hope for Somalis currently residing here under TPS, and these individuals are concerned about their status after March 17. They depend on TPS for their employment, housing, banking, travel, health insurance, and education opportunities. Extending their status beyond March 17, 2008 will allow these friends a safe temporary home for the immediate future while their homeland continues to strive towards security and peace.

As Senator representing the largest community of Somalis in the U.S., I urge your prompt consideration of this request. Thank you once again for all of the assistance that you continue to provide my office on matters of such great importance.

Sincerely,



Norm Coleman
United States Senate