No. 25-5724

IN THE
UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

NATIONAL TPS ALLIANCE, MARIELA GONZÁLEZ, FREDDY JOSE ARAPE RIVAS, M.H., CECILIA DANIELA GONZÁLEZ HERRERA, ALBA CECILIA PURICA HERNÁNDEZ, E.R., HENDRINA VIVAS CASTILLO, A.C.A., SHERIKA BLANC, VILES DORSAINVIL, and G.S.,
Plaintiffs-Appellees,

v.

MARKWAYNE MULLIN, in his official capacity as Secretary of Homeland Security, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, and UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Defendants-Appellants.

ON APPEAL FROM THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, NO. 3:25-CV-01766-EMC
HONORABLE EDWARD M. CHEN

DECLARATION OF J.Z.

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I, J.Z., declare:

1. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth in this declaration.

2. I was born in Venezuela. I am 43 years old. I have never been arrested for or convicted of any crime in the United States or in any other country.

3. I have lived in the United States since 2016 and have relied on TPS since 2022. My life and that of my family were upended last week when I lost the work authorization I had through TPS. My husband and I lost our jobs and, with the job loss, we have also lost our only sources of income. We have also lost the health insurance upon which we rely for our daughter's essential medical care. With the loss of TPS, I am also no longer eligible for the employment-based immigration pathway which I had been pursuing and for which I am otherwise eligible. The employment-based immigration pathway depends on having the lawful immigration status which I had through TPS, and no longer do. I am in limbo. I cannot return to Venezuela, but my life here has been thoroughly upended.

4. We left Venezuela because it was not safe for us to live there anymore. I traveled with our daughter to the United States in 2016. My daughter was 18 months old at the time, and we joined my husband who had preceded us.

5. Since arriving in the United States, we were grateful when Venezuela was designated for TPS because of the country's humanitarian crisis. We could not return to Venezuela because the country has been in crisis. We relied on TPS for legal status and work authorization. I am also a member of the National TPS Alliance.

6. My husband and I have a young daughter who was born in the United States in 2021, in addition to our older daughter who was born in Venezuela and has lived in the United States since she was a toddler.

7. We have worked hard to build a stable life in this country for ourselves and our children. I earned a master's degree in international business administration and developed professional experience in accounting, investing years of effort in my education and career so that I could contribute professionally and provide a better future for my

children. My husband was trained as a chemical engineer in Venezuela and works in the United States constructing motorized gates for government and commercial complexes.

8. My husband and I own our home and have ongoing financial responsibilities. We have always tried to support our family through our own work and have never received government assistance. We have paid taxes throughout our time living in the United States.

9. We knew that TPS was not a form of permanent protection, but we also believed that we could rely on it so long as our country remained unstable. Our country remains unstable and it is not safe to return there, so we could not believe when we heard that Venezuela's TPS designation was being terminated last year. It is still not safe for us to return to Venezuela because we would be targeted for having left the country when we did. I also know that I would not be able to get the medical care my daughter needs in Venezuela because of the country's ongoing crisis.

10. On October 2, 2026, I was forced to resign from my job because my work authorization was no longer valid following the termination of my TPS-related employment authorization. My husband is in the same situation: he also lost his job on October 2, 2026.

11. Our family is now in an extremely difficult and uncertain position. We both want to work, support our children, and continue building the life we have worked so hard to establish in the United States. However, without valid employment authorization, our ability to provide for our family has been severely affected. Despite our education, qualifications, and willingness to work, we are now facing serious obstacles to earning the income we need to maintain our household.

12. The consequences have extended beyond our employment. After losing my job, our family's health insurance coverage ended. This is particularly frightening because our older daughter has Type 1 diabetes, a chronic condition that requires continuous medical care, insulin, glucose monitoring supplies, and regular appointments with her endocrinologist. We are now trying to determine how we will afford her essential medications and medical supplies without health insurance. As a mother, one of my

greatest fears is not being able to provide my daughter with the medical care she needs to remain healthy and safe.

13. At the same time, my husband and I must continue meeting our family's daily needs, paying our housing expenses, and caring for our children while facing uncertainty about our ability to work. The emotional and financial pressure is overwhelming. We have spent years working toward stability, and now we are trying to protect everything we have built while worrying about how we will afford essential healthcare for our daughter.

14. I was also preparing to pursue an EB-2 National Interest Waiver (NIW), an employment-based immigration pathway for which my attorney determined that I qualified based on my professional and educational background. After the termination of Venezuela's TPS designation, I consulted with three immigration attorneys regarding my options. I was advised that the loss of my lawful immigration status following the termination of TPS created a significant obstacle to adjusting my status within the United States. That immigration pathway is no longer open to me. I am not eligible if I do not have a current form of lawful immigration status. All the effort that I put into securing a more permanent immigration status went up in smoke.

15. I understand that consular processing may be an alternative way to adjust my legal status, but this would require me to leave the United States. Leaving the United States could, in turn, bar me from reentering the United States, depending on my immigration history and the applicable law. I would not know whether that would be the outcome before leaving the country. This has left me facing an incredibly difficult dilemma. I had worked hard to pursue a lawful pathway to permanent residency, but I now face the possibility of being unable to move forward with that process from within the United States, while leaving the country could jeopardize my ability to return to my family. This uncertainty has deeply affected my hopes for the future and my ability to plan a secure life for my children.

16. The termination of TPS has therefore affected nearly every aspect of our

lives. My husband and I face restrictions on our ability to work; our health insurance has ended; and we are struggling to determine how we will pay for our daughter's essential medical care. At the same time, a potential immigration pathway for which I had been preparing has become significantly more complicated, despite my education, professional experience, and efforts to find a lawful solution.

17. We are not asking to avoid our responsibilities. We want to work, support our children, maintain our home, contribute to our community, and provide our daughter with the consistent medical care she needs. We have worked hard to build our lives here, and we want the opportunity to continue doing so.

18. I share my story in the hope that the Court will understand that the consequences of TPS termination extend far beyond immigration status. They affect our ability to work, care for our children, maintain our home, and ensure that a child with a chronic medical condition receives the treatment she needs. We simply want the opportunity to continue working, caring for our family, and building the stable future we have worked so hard to achieve in a safe country while our country is in crisis.

19. I am writing this anonymously because I no longer have a lawful immigration status in the United States and fear retaliation from both U.S. and Venezuelan authorities.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this declaration was executed in Texas this 14th day of October, 2026.



J.Z.