

## **President's Request for New Department of Homeland Security Authorities, 2019**

**The Bridge Act:** The revised BRIDGE (Bar Removal of Individuals who Dream and Grow our Economy) Act would allow foreign nationals who grew up in the United States and are enrolled in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) program to receive temporary (three-year), “provisional protected presence” and employment authorization. The updated BRIDGE Act is modeled after legislation that was introduced in the 114<sup>th</sup> and 115<sup>th</sup> Congresses. Those who are eligible for this program are persons who:

- Were born after June 15, 1981;
- Entered the United States before 16 years of age;
- Continually resided in US between June 15, 2007 and their application for the program;
- Were physically present in US on June 15, 2012;
- Were unlawfully present in the US on June 15, 2012;
- Were enrolled in school at the time of the application, graduated high school or equivalent or an honorably discharged veteran;
- Have not been convicted of felony, a significant misdemeanor, or three or more misdemeanors;
- Do not pose a threat to national security or public safety; and,
- Are currently enrolled in good standing in DACA.

**Temporary Protected Status (TPS):** TPS is a protection granted to nationals of specifically designated countries that face an armed conflict, environmental disaster, or other extraordinary and temporary condition. As of August 2017, an estimated 325,000 TPS recipients lived in the United States. More than 90 percent of individuals with TPS are nationals of El Salvador (195,000), Honduras (57,000), or Haiti (50,000). This legislation would grant temporary (3-year) “provisional protected presence” and employment authorization to individuals who:

- Are physically present in the United States when they apply for the program;
- Had received TPS and remained lawfully in such status until it was terminated pursuant to statute;
- Register with the government, pass security and law enforcement background checks, and pay a reasonable application fee;
- Have not committed a felony or other serious crime and do not pose a threat to our country; and
- Have continually resided in the United States since January 1, 2011.

**In-Country Asylum:** To address the humanitarian crisis of unaccompanied alien children (UACs), Democrats have proposed in-country asylum processing for Central American Minors. This would require a statutory change, along with reallocation of State Department funds to establish in-country processing capacities at Northern Triangle consulates and embassies. For the new procedure to achieve the desired humanitarian result, a further corresponding statutory change would be required to ensure that those who circumvent the process and come to the United States without authorization can be promptly returned home. Without the latter change, in-country processing will not reduce the unauthorized flow or successfully mitigate the humanitarian crisis.