

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 19, 2019

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

Last March, you granted an extension of the Deferred Enforcement Departure (DED) status for Liberians, but only for a twelve-month “wind-down” period, after which time you indicated that you would terminate DED for all Liberian beneficiaries effective March 31, 2019. We write to ask that you reconsider and extend DED status for Liberians.

Liberians have had protected status in the United States since President George H.W. Bush first approved Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Liberia in response to its civil war in 1991. That status was extended under presidents from both parties until it expired in 2006, at which time President George W. Bush granted DED protections to Liberians. Since 2007, DED has been extended by presidents of both parties, allowing recipients to remain in the United States legally and receive work authorization.

Our state of Minnesota has one of the largest Liberian populations in the country. Many have lived in our state for decades as business owners, teachers, and health care workers. They have contributed to the cultural and economic strength of our state. Forcing Liberians to return to an unstable country will not only risk their safety, but will also separate families, harm communities, and disrupt local economies. It is for this reason that we ask you to extend the DED protections for Liberians now in effect before they expire at the end of March.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Dean Phillips
Member of Congress



Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress