

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 12, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
2707 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Secretary Noem,

We write to express deep concern regarding this administration's recent rhetoric regarding Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Somali nationals in the United States. On Friday, November 21, President Trump posted to Truth Social that he would terminate TPS for Somalis living in Minnesota "effective immediately". Further, Secretary Noem stated that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) would evaluate whether to end protected status for Somalis and suggested that, if the status was revoked, the change would apply to Somali immigrants across the country, and not just in Minnesota.

Congress enacted the Immigration Act of 1990, Pub. L. 101-649, 104 Stat. 4978, to provide TPS for people experiencing "ongoing armed conflict, environmental disaster, or other extraordinary and temporary conditions that prevent nationals from returning safely." TPS is a legal pathway intended to allow individuals unable to return to their home country to safely remain in the United States and actively contribute to our nation's economy. Somalia was first designated for TPS in 1991 and that status has been continued through 27 subsequent extensions or redesignations. The most recent renewal extended the designation through March 17, 2026. As of March 2025, 705 nationals of Somalia are covered by TPS according to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Although Somalia has made extraordinary progress in the last decade, conditions in the country are still much too dangerous for people to be forced to return. If TPS is ended, it will be potentially life-threatening for the people sent back to Somalia. The violent conflict with Al-Shabaab continues, and many Somali TPS holders would be targets if they were forced to return.

Somalia has also seen a pressing humanitarian crisis caused by a rapidly worsening drought emergency, with at least 4.4 million people projected to face acute food insecurity and the number of people receiving emergency food aid plunging from 1.1 million in August to just 350,000 in November.

Somali TPS holders – some of whom have lived in the U.S. for almost three decades – have built lives for themselves here, starting businesses, raising families, and becoming important members of their communities. These vulnerable individuals are now facing agonizing uncertainty about their futures, due to the incoherent and legally questionable directives issued by this administration. Holding people in suspense about what could be a matter of life and death is unconscionably cruel.

With that in mind, we request a prompt response to the following questions:

- 1) What specific legal or factual basis supports the decision to terminate Somalia's TPS designation?
- 2) How does this decision align with Immigration Nationality Act § 244(b)(3)(A), which requires a data-driven assessment of country conditions?
- 3) Prior to the termination announcement, did DHS undertake a careful review of the conditions in Somalia that warranted the original TPS designation and subsequent extensions? If so, what were the explicit findings of that review?
- 4) Was the U.S. State Department, or any humanitarian organizations consulted before the decision? If so, what were their recommendations?
- 5) Given that the U.S. State Department designates Somalia as a "Level 4: Do Not Travel" country, how does DHS justify deportations to a country the U.S. government itself deems unsafe?

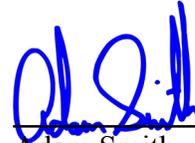
6) What assessment did DHS conduct on the potential impact of returns on regional stability and U.S. diplomatic relations?

Sincerely,



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Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



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Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



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Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



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Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



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Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



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Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



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Jared Golden  
Member of Congress



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Kelly Morrison  
Member of Congress



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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress