



Amy Klobuchar
U.S. Senator from Minnesota

klobuchar.senate.gov

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Klobuchar Announces Extension of Protective Status for Somalis Residing Legally in the U.S.

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar announced today that the Department of Homeland Security has extended Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for eligible Somalis living in the United States for an additional 18 months. The current protected status had been scheduled to expire on March 17, 2011. Under the extension, individuals who have already been granted TPS are eligible to re-register and maintain their status for an additional 18 months, through September 17, 2012. Minnesota is home to the largest Somali community in the United States, and Klobuchar recently met with Somali community leaders about the need to extend TPS.

“The many Somalis living in Minnesota are a special part of our communities - they are our friends, our co-workers, and our neighbors,” Klobuchar said. **“The current state of Somalia makes return an unsafe option, and the extension of TPS will ensure that the Somalis and their families stay out of danger.”**

Somalia was designated for TPS in 2001, due to ongoing armed conflict and extraordinary and temporary conditions within the country that would pose a serious threat to the personal safety of TPS-eligible individuals in the United States if they were to return to Somalia.

Nationals of Somalia (and people without nationality who last habitually resided in Somalia) who have been granted TPS must re-register for the 18-month extension during the 60-day re-registration period beginning November 2, 2010, and remaining in effect through January 3, 2011. Somali TPS beneficiaries are strongly encouraged to apply as soon as possible following the start of the 60-day re-registration period to allow sufficient time for U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services to complete all routine security checks and further application processing. TPS does not apply to Somali nationals who entered the United States after September 4, 2001. Before individuals can qualify for TPS, they must first pass a Federal Bureau of Investigation background check.

Additional details on this extension of TPS for Somalia appear in the Federal Register notice published today here: <http://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2010/11/02/2010-27613/extension-of-the-designation-of-somalia-for-temporary-protected-status>.

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