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PRESS RELEASE

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CARECEN SF

CARECEN SF LEADS 26 PERSON DELEGATION TO D.C. TO LOBBY FOR PROTECTION OF TPS

San Francisco, CA - January 31, 2019 – CARECEN SF proudly takes the lead in organizing a 26-person delegation traveling to Washington, D.C. from Feb. 10-13th to lobby lawmakers for the protection of TPS (Temporary Protected Status). The delegation is also led by East Bay Sanctuary Covenant with African Advocacy Network, SF Living Wage Coalition, We Rise SF and the NorCal Save TPS Coalition joining the effort. All organizations are active in the fight towards immigrant rights and will meet up with over 2,000 other members of the #SaveTPS movement for D.C. Lobbying Day led by the National TPS Alliance.

The delegation plans to have honest and impactful meetings with lawmakers regarding the importance of saving over 320,000 immigrants under the protection of TPS from deportation. Delegation members will emphasize the need for lawmakers to support **H.R. 4253, the American Promise Act**, which provides legal permanent residence for TPS recipients.

The immigrant community has been under extreme attack during the first two years of the current administration. ICE raids, unethical deportation tactics, the separation of families through Zero Tolerance, 35 days of a partial government shutdown in order to fund a non-effective border wall as well as the termination of the TPS & DACA programs have created a state of great fear among recipients of these programs.

It is time for lawmakers to put an end to the constant attacks and pass legislation that protects immigrants and creates a path towards legal status and citizenship.

Many TPS recipients have been living in the United States under the program's protection for almost two decades. They have made their lives in this country; created families, attended universities, created businesses, and continue to contribute to the U.S. economy. A recent study

by the University of Kansas' Center for Migration Research suggests that over 80% of TPS holders from Central America pay taxes. That same study found that the average TPS holder contributed funds to social security for 15.4 years. With that many years of not only lawfully living here but also making a significant positive contribution to this country, it is completely cruel and unjust for the current administration to simply say "you don't belong here, you are not welcomed here."

CARECEN SF is proud to take part in this delegation heading to D.C. at this critical time in the history of this country. *"We aim to make an impact and create positive change for the immigrant community and put an end to the constant fear we have been living under"* states Vanessa Velasco, CARECEN SF's Community Outreach Specialist and member of the delegation.

Important dates:

Delegation Press Conference

Thursday, February 7, 1pm
East Bay Sanctuary Covenant
2362 Bancroft Way
Berkeley, CA

Dinner in Honor of Delegation (Sponsored by the Consulate of El Salvador in SF)

Thursday, February 7, 5:30pm
D'Maize
2778 24th Street
San Francisco, CA

CARECEN SF empowers and responds to the needs, rights and aspirations of Latino, immigrant, and under-resourced families in the San Francisco Bay Area — building leadership to pursue self-determination and justice. Rooted in its cultural strengths and inspired by the Central American justice struggles, CARECEN SF envisions our diverse immigrant community as thriving; where families prosper, build effective community institutions, and participate confidently in civic life.

Learn more about our history and work at www.carecensf.org.

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