



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS REDESIGNATED FOR SYRIAN NATIONALS

LATHRUP VILLAGE, Mich. – July 18, 2013 – The Arab American and Chaldean Council (ACC), a premier nonprofit human service organization serving southeast Michigan, along with Congressman Gary Peters, is urging any eligible Syrian national and person without nationality who last habitually resided in Syria, and who are now in the United States, to apply for Temporary Protected Status (TPS). On June 17, 2013, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) redesignated Syria as a TPS country.

The Secretary of Homeland Security may designate a foreign country for TPS due to conditions in that country that temporarily prevent the country's nationals from returning safely, or in certain circumstances, does not allow them to handle the return of its nationals adequately. During this designation period, individuals who are TPS beneficiaries, or who are found preliminarily eligible for TPS, are not removable from the United States, can obtain an employment authorization document (EAD), and may be granted travel authorization. Once granted TPS, an individual cannot be detained by the Department of Homeland Security on the basis of their immigration status in the United States.

Those who currently have TPS for Syria must re-register during within the 60-day re-registration period that runs through August 16, 2013. Those who do not currently have TPS for Syria may file an initial application to register under the recent re-designation. These individuals must file their TPS package by December 16, 2013.

Packets **must** be mailed to USCIS at P.O. Box 6943, Chicago, IL 60680-6943. To register or re-register for TPS, individuals must file Form I-821 and Form I-765. Forms are free and available at www.uscis.gov/forms or by calling the USCIS Forms Hotline at 1-800-870-3676.

For assistance in filling out the forms, www.uscis.gov/legaladvice provides a list of accredited representatives and free or low-cost legal providers available.

About the Arab American and Chaldean Council (ACC)

The Arab American and Chaldean Council (ACC) is the premier nonprofit human service organization providing services to the Middle Eastern and mainstream communities in Southeast Michigan. Founded in 1979, the ACC provides counseling, health care, social services, employment training, job placement, translation, interpretation and youth services to more than 70,000 clients in metro Detroit. The ACC operates 40 outreach offices in the tri-county area, staffed with bilingual and trilingual professionals to serve the Arab American and Chaldean American populations and offer assistance to the Middle East refugee population. For more information, visit www.myacc.org or call (248) 559-1990.

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