



PRESS STATEMENT

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Revoking Temporary Protected Status for Haitian immigrants will further destabilize Springfield's economy

Judge's ruling delays additional harm

The Trump administration aims to rescind Temporary Protected Status for Haitian immigrants, a move that would directly impact communities all around Ohio, especially Springfield, where the Haitian community has made significant contributions to the local economy. A federal judge [blocked the TPS termination today](#), February 3rd, though the Trump administration is expected to appeal this decision. Policy Matters Ohio researcher Molly Bryden released the following statement:

"After [cutting more than \\$4.2 million in funding](#) from Springfield's Clark County over the last year, the federal government threatens to further erode the metro area's shrinking workforce by terminating Temporary Protected Status for thousands of Haitian immigrants who have made the city home and are now [operating businesses](#), [serving as healthcare workers](#), and working in warehouses, manufacturing, and the service industry.

"Terminating TPS would further destabilize Springfield's economy, which has shown signs of weakening in the past year. In fact, preliminary BLS data show that the Springfield metro area led the state in [year-to-year job losses](#). While data limitations pose challenges for measuring the full impact of recent immigration policy decisions, Springfield showed early signs of labor force contraction, coinciding with heightened federal scrutiny. Threats to TPS holders' lawful work authorization risk deepening economic uncertainty felt by the entire community.

"Here's what we know so far: Signs of an economic downturn emerged in the data for the Springfield metro area earlier than for Ohio, suggesting Springfield was more vulnerable to the broad economic uncertainty we saw throughout 2025. According to preliminary jobs and employment data for December 2025, Springfield's labor force shrank by 1,100 (-1.8%), coinciding with substantial job losses (-1,100, a 2.2% decrease), despite modest statewide growth in both measures. Springfield's private sector losses were concentrated in manufacturing (-900, a 13.4% decrease) and leisure and hospitality (-200, a 4.0% decrease).

"It's possible that the Trump administration's deportation campaign has generated a chilling effect, sowing fear among immigrant workers and driving them out of Ohio's labor force. That effect would be especially pronounced in the Springfield area, where the Haitian community has been growing, partially driven by [employment opportunities in the manufacturing industry](#).

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Policy Matters Ohio is a nonprofit, nonpartisan state policy research institute with offices in Cleveland and Columbus.



“Forcing Haitian people out of the labor force could have further destabilizing consequences for Springfield’s local economy, especially considering their critical role in the healthcare sector. Though the pause on the elimination of TPS may ease immediate concerns, many Haitians remain fearful for what’s to come, and it’s likely that ongoing threats of increased immigration enforcement activity have already undermined Springfield’s economic recovery.

“Immigrants are vital to Ohio’s economy. Eliminating lawful work authorization for thousands of immigrant workers – in Springfield and across the state – will likely exacerbate the economic slowdown we’re starting to observe statewide. Immigrants aren’t just an economic asset to the state – they’re our friends and neighbors, and they contribute to their communities and the state in many ways, no different from contributions made by community members who were born here. Stripping immigrants’ right to work and live in our communities is a devastating policy decision for the region’s economy and for the working families who bolster Ohio’s economic resilience.”