

Lott
Carey



5 September 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, District of Columbia

Dear Mr. President:

We write as the leaders of the principal African-American Baptists communions to urge your leadership in creating a Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program (HFRPP) as soon as possible. This program has bi-partisan support of more than 100 members of Congress, the US Conference of Mayors, the American Bar Association, the Congressional Black Caucus, thousands of petitioners, and more. It is worthy of your timely support.

Nearly 110,000 Haitians with family-based immigrant visa petitions approved by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) remain on wait lists that can exceed a dozen years. A HFRPP is a critical step to addressing an incredible hardship. It is the right thing to do for Haiti. It is the right thing to do for the United States.

The creation of a HFRPP will demonstrate your moral leadership. More expeditiously enabling already approved Haitians to live and work in the United States will help fortify families that have been fractured in unimaginable ways exacerbated by the historic earthquake of January 2010. You have shown unusual principled leadership in the face of unparalleled unreasonable obstruction. We ask you to continue to be a strong moral leader.

The creation of a HFRPP demonstrates your commitment to fairness. Cuban families benefit from a Family Reunification Parole Program. We ask you to demonstrate fairness to Haitian families by providing the same opportunity for them to wait for their permanent resident status in safety with their petitioning U.S.-based families; just as expedited Cuban parolees are able to do.

The creation of a HFRPP makes good economic sense. Reuniting families will contribute to Haiti's economic recovery. Haitians remit nearly \$2B annually to Haiti. The stability offered families through this program will contribute to a safe, strong, and stable Haiti without negative implications for the US economy. This will also contribute to the overall safety and stability of the Caribbean region.

We applaud your leadership in this era of congressional inactivity in so many areas, including immigration reform. We urge you to instruct the DHS to create a Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program that will help to save lives and to speed Haiti's recovery.

We continue to pray for God's abundance of grace for you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nehemiah Davis, President
National Missionary Baptist Convention of America

Dr. Gregory K. Moss, Sr., President
Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Society

Dr. James C. Perkins, President
Progressive National Baptist Convention

Dr. Julius R. Scruggs, President
National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.

Dr. Samuel C. Tolbert, Jr., President
National Baptist Convention of America

Cc: The Honorable Jeh Charles Johnson, United States Secretary of Homeland Security
The Honorable John Kerry, United States Secretary of State
Mr. Alejandro Mayorkas, United States Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security
Ms. Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor and Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement
Ms. Cecilia Munoz, Domestic Policy Council
Ms. Felicia Escobar, Special Assistant to the President for Immigration Policy

