

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 19, 2017

The Honorable Rex Tillerson
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Elaine C. Duke
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Tillerson and Acting Secretary Duke:

We are writing to urge you to extend Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Haitian nationals residing in the United States. In May 2017, then-Secretary Kelly partially extended Haitian TPS by six months, until January 22, 2018. Next month is the deadline for a further extension — for the full eighteen months available under Section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act. That extension is needed and justified based on the devastation that Haiti has suffered from a series of natural disasters.

Haiti is a nation in distress. In early October 2016, Hurricane Matthew devastated Haiti, which was still reeling from a January 2010 earthquake that damaged more than 80 percent of the island nation's rural housing, and from a subsequent cholera outbreak. Late last year, the United Nations asked its member states for \$400 million to fund its plan to eradicate cholera from Haiti, but has thus far received only \$2 million, leaving the plan unimplemented. Some 1.4 million Haitians — more than ten percent of the country's population — remain in need of urgent humanitarian aid due to Hurricane Matthew. Hurricanes Irma and Maria have further hindered the Government of Haiti's recovery efforts and exacerbated the devastation.

Extensive damage to critical Haitian infrastructure from the hurricanes and the earthquake remains widespread. Even today, more than 55,000 of those internally displaced by the earthquake live in tent cities with limited access to food and sanitation. In the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, food security continues to be a problem, and there are still reports of deaths due to malnutrition in those areas hardest hit by

Matthew, where more than 400,000 remain food insecure. As Haiti continues to struggle to rebuild and recover from this series of devastating natural and man-made disasters, Haitian nationals in the United States are unable to return safely to their homeland.

Earlier this year, the *Miami Herald* editorialized that sending home Haitians currently in the United States under TPS “will do far more harm to Haiti than good to the United States.”¹ According to the newspaper, the 58,000 Haitians who live and work in the United States under TPS support up to 500,000 of their family members and loved ones in Haiti. Haiti’s government is struggling to accommodate 175,000 internally displaced people while rebuilding damaged infrastructure. At the same time, the country may be forced to accept hundreds of thousands of Dominican Republic residents of Haitian descent whom the Dominican government plans to expel. Haiti is simply not equipped to accept additional deportees from the United States. More recently, the *Miami Herald* reported that “Haiti is not just a country of extreme poverty, but unrelenting unemployment. A country where 59 percent of the 10.5 million population live on less than \$2.42 a day; its people, most of them young, are fleeing en masse to Brazil, Chile and Canada in search of refuge, and its largest private sector employer, the apparel industry, is losing jobs amid a volatile U.S. retail climate.”²

Haitians have lived and worked peacefully and productively in our country under TPS for seven years. In doing so, they helped to support not only our economy and communities, but those of their families and loved ones in Haiti. The members of the Haitian diaspora in the United States sent more than \$2.35 billion back to Haiti in 2016, representing roughly a quarter of the Haitian GDP for the year. Ending TPS for Haiti would have devastating effects on a nation struggling to rebuild, and will surely worsen the ongoing humanitarian disaster.

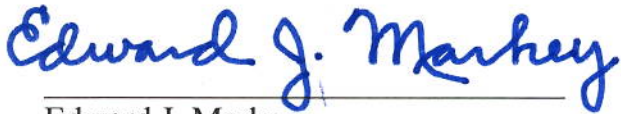
On August 25, 2015, then-Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson extended Haitian TPS “because the extraordinary conditions that led to Haiti’s [initial] designation continue to exist and prevent Haitian nationals (or aliens having no nationality who last habitually resided in Haiti) from returning to Haiti in safety.” Unfortunately, that remains the case today. I therefore urge you to act consistently with American values of compassion and generosity, and immediately extend the grant of TPS to Haitians currently living in the United States.

¹ <http://www.miamiherald.com/opinion/editorials/article144888619.html>

² <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/americas/haiti/article165471982.html>

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your response.

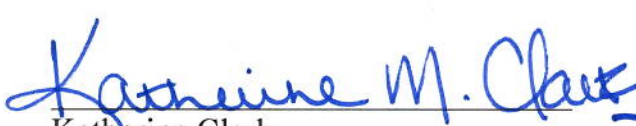
Sincerely,



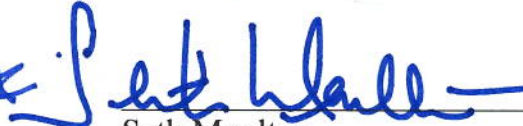
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Katherine Clark
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



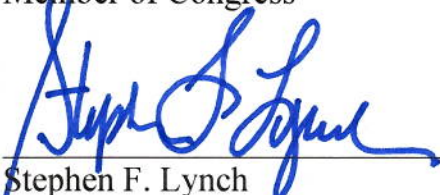
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy III
Member of Congress



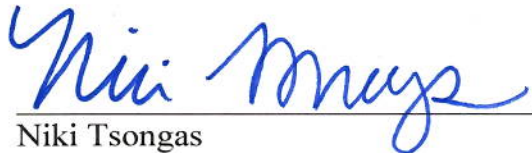
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress