



January 30, 2012

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington D.C., 20500

Dear President Obama,

I write to you to respectfully request your support in expanding humanitarian parole for Haitians with pending family-based visa petitions.

I am deeply concerned about the precarious status of many Haitian children, elders and families as they wait in Haiti to be reunited with their loved ones here in the United States and in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. For many, the conditions in Haiti since the devastating earthquake of 2010 remain unstable and even dangerous. Establishing a Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program (HFRPP), modeled after the Cuban Family Reunification Parole Program, would alleviate this crisis by simply allowing Haitians already approved for visas to wait for them in the United States with their families rather than in Haiti. These Haitians have already been screened and accepted through a rigorous process. All that remains is for them to physically come to the United States.

I know that several members of the Massachusetts Delegation have already expressed support for this initiative including United States Senators John Kerry and Scott Brown, U. S. Representatives Michael Capuano, Barney Frank, James McGovern, Edward Markey, John Olver, and Stephen Lynch. I want to thank all of them for lending their voices to this critical issue. Governor Deval Patrick also recently submitted a letter urging Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano, to implement a HFRPP. Additionally, members of the Massachusetts State Legislature including the entire Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus have sent letters requesting such a program.

I therefore encourage you to act quickly and join the coalition of Haitians, Haitian Americans and friends of Haiti across our Commonwealth and indeed across the country in support of the HFRPP. Your leadership in recommending this course of action to Secretary Napolitano, will not go unnoticed or unappreciated. Haiti has a long history of mutually beneficial relations with the United States dating back to the American Revolution and adopting a HFRPP would serve to strengthen that historic partnership.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for all of your work on our behalf.

Sincerely,

Cosigned:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Dorcena Forry".

Linda Dorcena Forry
Massachusetts State Representative

Name (Printed) _____

Address _____

Email _____