



WASHINGTON BUREAU · NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
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August 26, 2014

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

RE: CREATION OF A HAITIAN FAMILY REUNIFICATION PAROLE PROGRAM

Dear Mr. President;

On behalf of the NAACP, our nation's oldest, largest and most widely-recognized grassroots-based civil rights organization, I strongly urge you to create a Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program (FRPP) to expedite parole into the U.S. of many of the more than 100,000 beneficiaries of DHS-approved family-based visa petitions. Such a program would be akin to the Cuban FRPP, under which tens of thousands of Cuban refugees have been allowed to join their families in the United States while awaiting their green card. Currently many Haitians are forced to languish on wait lists in Haiti for any time between 2.5 to 11 years.

The NAACP is encouraged by your administration's commitment to reforming immigration policies under your existing executive authority in light of Congress's failure to pass comprehensive immigration reform. We agree that the time to act is long overdue. In that vein, it is our understanding that you intend to issue a series of executive orders expanding administrative relief for a number of immigrants, and thus we strongly urge you to include policy reforms creating a Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program in any immigration reform policies you may announce in the near future. A Haitian FRPP would save lives, speed recovery of the island nation which is still feeling the repercussions of the catastrophic 2012 earthquake, and it would serve and promote our human rights values as a nation.

Everyone who would be affected by the FRPP is already considered "legal" and will come eventually, if they survive, to supporting families. Furthermore, officials at the Department of Health and Human Services have said cost is *not* a concern; establishment of a Haitian FRPP is clearly consistent with post-quake non-medical Haitian parole experience. As you know, no congressional action is needed to establish this program, nor would anyone get a green card any sooner. Establishment of a Haitian FRPP would simply allow these men, women, and children to wait for the green cards in the United States rather than in Haiti, and if applicable they could apply for work permits so their remittances can help Haiti recover.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter; I look forward to your quick action and your response. Should you have any comments or questions, please feel free to contact me at (202) 463-2940.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hilary O. Shelton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "H" and "S".

Hilary O. Shelton
Director, NAACP Washington Bureau &
Senior Vice President for Advocacy and Policy

cc: Jeh Johnson
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Cecilia Munoz
Director
White House Domestic Policy Council

Felicia Escobar
Special Assistant to the President
For Immigration Policy