



July 31, 2014

Dear Friend,

I hope that you are well.

Because of your interest in a stronger, sustainable Haiti, I have attached two letters for your review.

In April, I wrote a letter to President Barack Obama urging the creation of a Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program. This week I received a formal response from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

I will continue to fight for the establishment of this important program. And I look forward to continuing to work with you on issues affecting Haiti.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frederica S. Wilson".

Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2014

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

In light of your recent reaffirmation of U.S. commitment to the Haitian people and economy, we write to urge you to direct the Department of Homeland Security to create a Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program (FRPP). This action will provide a lifeline to Haiti's economy, and reunite tens of thousands of Haitian families.

Currently, more than 100,000 Haitians with approved family-based immigrant visa petitions are forced to wait for years in Haiti. Their already limited economic opportunities have been further constrained by the 2010 earthquake. According to the State Department, Haiti remains near the top of its list of countries with the largest number of waiting list registrants. None of the eight countries preceding Haiti on the State Department's list have recently suffered from a natural disaster similar to the 2010 earthquake that devastated Haiti. The creation of a Haitian FRPP is well rooted in need, precedent, and is critical for Haiti's economic development.

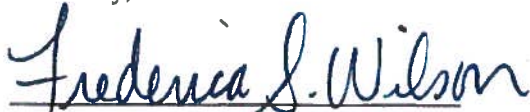
While the U.S.-led recovery effort continues to address the immediate needs of the Haitian people and better position Haiti's economy for long-term growth, Haiti remains the Western Hemisphere's poorest country. Over 80 percent of Haitians are living in poverty, 40 percent of Haitians are unemployed, and the average Haitian survives on \$2 or less per day.

Haitians in the United States remit approximately \$2 billion each year to Haiti and about 10 people benefit from the funds sent by each expatriate. Creation of a Haitian FRPP, similar to that previously established for Cubans, would immediately boost Haiti's economy, bolster the international effort to create sustainable growth in Haiti, and reunite tens of thousands of Haitian-Americans with family members already approved by the Department of Homeland Security.


The creation of a Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program is an executive action that would have strong support from Members of Congress, other elected officials throughout our nation, non-profit organizations, and millions of American citizens. Congressional colleagues have joined us in sending letters to your Administration urging the creation of this program. We respectfully request a meeting with you to discuss this much-needed action.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope to hear from you shortly.

Sincerely,



Frédérica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Deputy Secretary

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528



Homeland
Security

July 28, 2014

The Honorable Frederica S. Wilson
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Wilson:

Thank you for your letter to President Obama requesting the creation of a family reunification parole program and supporting long-term economic growth in Haiti. The White House has asked the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to respond to you.

In the wake of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, the United States took several urgent steps to increase the number of Haitians who could legally immigrate to or remain in the United States. Former Secretary Napolitano designated Haiti for temporary protected status (TPS) in 2010 and re-designated the country in 2011, permitting eligible Haitians who have been continuously residing in the United States since January 12, 2011 to remain here temporarily with work authorization. *See* 75 Fed. Reg. 3476 (Jan. 21, 2010); 76 Fed. Reg. 29,000 (May 19, 2011). Following consultations with other federal agencies, Secretary Johnson announced in March that current conditions in Haiti supported an extension of the designation of Haiti for TPS for an additional 18 months effective July 23, 2014 through January 22, 2016. The extension allows currently eligible TPS beneficiaries to retain their TPS through January 22, 2016. *See* 79 Fed. Reg. 11808 (Mar. 3, 2014). The March 2014 announcement provided a 60-day re-registration period, through May 2, 2014, during which period TPS beneficiaries were required to re-register. Instructions were also provided on how a TPS beneficiary could request a new Employment Authorization Document. Secretary Johnson recently extended the Haiti TPS re-registration period through July 22, 2014 in order to maximize the re-registration opportunities available to Haiti TPS beneficiaries. *See* 79 Fed. Reg. 25141 (May 2, 2014).

In addition, former Secretary Napolitano determined, after consultation with the State Department, that Haiti met the standards to be included among countries whose nationals are eligible for classification as H-2A agricultural and H-2B nonagricultural workers. As a result, effective January 18, 2012, nationals of Haiti have been eligible to participate in the H-2A and H-2B programs. *See* 77 Fed. Reg. 2558 (Jan. 18, 2012).

With respect to your request for the establishment of a family reunification parole program, parole is a discretionary action used sparingly on a case-by-case basis to permit an applicant for admission who is otherwise inadmissible to enter the United States for a temporary

The Honorable Frederica S. Wilson

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period for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit. When handling humanitarian parole requests, USCIS examines whether there are urgent humanitarian circumstances and whether parole is otherwise warranted as a matter of discretion. If the situation is of sufficient urgency, such as a life-threatening medical condition, USCIS may grant humanitarian parole even though a family-based immigrant visa petition has been filed or approved for the individual but a visa number is not yet available.

We have taken your request for the creation of a family reunification parole program for Haitians under advisement and are actively reviewing this proposal. We appreciate your interest in this matter and look forward to continuing to work with you to address how we can best serve the Haitian community in light of the suffering Haitians have endured in the aftermath of the devastating 2010 earthquake.

Thank you again for your letter and your interest in this important matter. The co-signers of your letter will receive separate, identical responses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alejandro N. Mayorkas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Alejandro N. Mayorkas