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April 18, 2017

Honorable John F. Kelly
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20016

Dear Secretary Kelly:

I strongly encourage you to extend Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Haitian nationals who have been residing in the United States under the current grant of TPS, which is set to expire on July 22 of this year. The devastation Haiti suffered from a series of natural disasters — most recently, Hurricane Matthew — as well as man-made disasters — most recently, a cholera outbreak caused by a United Nations' peacekeeping mission — provide a clear justification to exercise your authority under Section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to extend the grant of TPS to Haitian nationals.

Haiti is a nation in distress. In early October 2016, Hurricane Matthew devastated Haiti, which was still reeling from a January 12, 2010 earthquake that damaged more than 80 percent of rural housing, and from the 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 the hurricane alone.

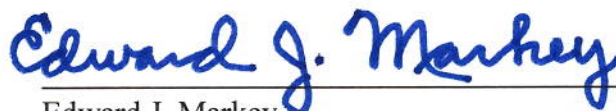
Extensive damage to critical Haitian infrastructure from both the hurricane and the earthquake remains widespread. Even today, more than 55,000 of those internally displaced by the earthquake live in tent cities with limited access to food and sanitation. Food security continues to be a problem, and 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.

The *Miami Herald* recently 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 50,000 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 newly elected 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 who the Dominican government plans to expel. Haiti is simply not equipped to accept additional deportees from the United States.

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 now would have devastating effects on a nation struggling to rebuild, and will surely worsen the ongoing humanitarian disaster.

The Secretary of Homeland Security most recently designated Haiti for TPS on August 25, 2015 “because the extraordinary and temporary 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.”² 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.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

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

² <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2015/08/25/2015-21006/extension-of-the-designation-of-haiti-for-temporary-protected-status#footnote-1-p51583>