



## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

BILL NELSON  
FLORIDA

May 17, 2017

The Honorable John F. Kelly  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Kelly:

I write again regarding the renewal of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitian nationals.

In the aftermath of the devastating 2010 earthquake, many Haitians fled their homes and eventually settled in my state of Florida. As you know, conditions in Haiti remain very difficult, especially after the devastation of Hurricane Matthew. And, after long-delayed elections and a prolonged political crisis, Haiti only recently formed a government.

I understand that the Government of Haiti is working on a plan to further rebuild and develop the country so that its people can make their lives there. Allowing TPS to expire too soon risks disrupting the lives of nearly 60,000 Haitians living in the United States and burdening a government not ready to accept them. To allow for successful implementation of its plan, the Government requests that you extend TPS for Haitian nationals for another 18 months.

I am also concerned about recent press reports that there is an effort to find selective examples of criminal activity by Haitian nationals as a part of the Department's review of TPS. Haitians contribute significantly to the culture and economy of Florida and our country, and the bad acts of a few should not mean that tens of thousands must return to a country still struggling to recover from a devastating earthquake and hurricane. Moreover, current law already provides that those with felony convictions or two or more misdemeanor convictions are not eligible for TPS.

I know that you share hopes for a stable and prosperous Haiti. I urge you to consider the concerns of the Government and people of Haiti in renewing TPS.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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