



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MARTIN J. WALSH

May 11, 2017

The Honorable John F. Kelly
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20016

RE: Request to Extend Temporary Protected Status for Haiti

Dear Secretary Kelly:

On behalf of the Haitian community in the City of Boston, I write to urge you to extend Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitians living in the U.S. until Haiti is sufficiently stable for their safe return.

Haiti has been decimated by a series of devastating events. In 2010, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake killed over 300,000 people and displaced 1.5 million more. 300,000 buildings were damaged or destroyed. Today, at least 40,000 people are still homeless and living in camps as a result of the earthquake. Following the earthquake, 100,000 individuals were sickened by cholera, which has killed 9,200 people to date. Less than a year ago, Category 4 Hurricane Matthew struck, further spreading water-borne cholera and leaving 1.25 million Haitians without access to safe drinking water. More than 800,000 Haitians are in desperate need of emergency food assistance.

Failure to extend TPS for Haiti would have a negative impact on the U.S. and Haitian economies, endangering lives, further destabilizing Haiti, and potentially separating families. The Haitian government recently indicated that it is not in a position to accept the approximately 50,000 Haitian TPS holders in the U.S. back into the country because their repatriation would only worsen an already precarious situation. The Haitian Foreign Minister has advised that an extension of TPS would afford the Haitian government much needed time to undertake projects to improve living conditions in the country. This request by the Haitian government is clearly telling that the country conditions in Haiti warrant an extension of TPS for at least 18 months.

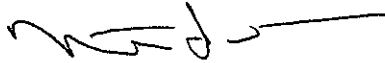
It is in our national interest to extend TPS for Haitians. Haitian TPS holders across our country make vital contributions to our economy, including key industries such as health and elder care. In fact, a recent study from the Immigrant Legal Resource Center showed that Haitian

BOSTON CITY HALL • ONE CITY HALL SQUARE • BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS • 02201
617-635-4500 • www.boston.gov

TPS holders contribute \$280 million to the U.S. GDP and \$42 million to Medicare and Social Security annually. In addition to major economic contributions, due to the length of the crisis in Haiti, many TPS holders now have U.S. citizen children. Undoubtedly, ending TPS before Haiti is safe would result in the breakup of families in communities across the country, as parents would be unwilling to put their children in harm's way. Finally, Haitian TPS holders in the U.S. work hard to send money home to family members still in Haiti. Ending TPS would take away this lifeline, needlessly destabilizing a country that is struggling to rebuild.

The Boston metro area is home to the third largest Haitian community in the United States. There are 16,000 Haitian immigrants and nationals who live in the City of Boston, and many more come to Boston for work and leisure every day from neighboring cities and towns. The Haitian diaspora has enriched and strengthened our City in immeasurable ways. It is our moral imperative as Americans to stand with those in need, and I urge you to exercise your discretion to extend TPS for Haitians until they can safely return to Haiti.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin J. Walsh', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Martin J. Walsh
Mayor of Boston

cc: U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, Massachusetts
U.S. Senator Edward J. Markey, Massachusetts
U.S. Congressman Michael E. Capuano, 7th District of Massachusetts
U.S. Congressman Stephen F. Lynch, 8th District of Massachusetts



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MARTIN J. WALSH

May 11, 2017

The Honorable Rex W. Tillerson
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

RE: Request to Extend Temporary Protected Status for Haiti

Dear Secretary Tillerson:

On behalf of the Haitian community in the City of Boston, I write to urge you to extend Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitians living in the U.S. until Haiti is sufficiently stable for their safe return.

Haiti has been decimated by a series of devastating events. In 2010, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake killed over 300,000 people and displaced 1.5 million more. 300,000 buildings were damaged or destroyed. Today, at least 40,000 people are still homeless and living in camps as a result of the earthquake. Following the earthquake, 100,000 individuals were sickened by cholera, which has killed 9,200 people to date. Less than a year ago, Category 4 Hurricane Matthew struck, further spreading water-borne cholera and leaving 1.25 million Haitians without access to safe drinking water. More than 800,000 Haitians are in desperate need of emergency food assistance.

Failure to extend TPS for Haiti would have a negative impact on the U.S. and Haitian economies, endangering lives, further destabilizing Haiti, and potentially separating families. The Haitian government recently indicated that it is not in a position to accept the approximately 50,000 Haitian TPS holders in the U.S. back into the country because their repatriation would only worsen an already precarious situation. The Haitian Foreign Minister has advised that an extension of TPS would afford the Haitian government much needed time to undertake projects to improve living conditions in the country. This request by the Haitian government is clearly telling that the country conditions in Haiti warrant an extension of TPS for at least 18 months.

It is in our national interest to extend TPS for Haitians. Haitian TPS holders across our country make vital contributions to our economy, including key industries such as health and elder care. In fact, a recent study from the Immigrant Legal Resource Center showed that Haitian

BOSTON CITY HALL • ONE CITY HALL SQUARE • BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS • 02201
617-635-4500 • www.boston.gov

TPS holders contribute \$280 million to the U.S. GDP and \$42 million to Medicare and Social Security annually. In addition to major economic contributions, due to the length of the crisis in Haiti, many TPS holders now have U.S. citizen children. Undoubtedly, ending TPS before Haiti is safe would result in the breakup of families in communities across the country, as parents would be unwilling to put their children in harm's way. Finally, Haitian TPS holders in the U.S. work hard to send money home to family members still in Haiti. Ending TPS would take away this lifeline, needlessly destabilizing a country that is struggling to rebuild.

The Boston metro area is home to the third largest Haitian community in the United States. There are 16,000 Haitian immigrants and nationals who live in the City of Boston, and many more come to Boston for work and leisure every day from neighboring cities and towns. The Haitian diaspora has enriched and strengthened our City in immeasurable ways. It is our moral imperative as Americans to stand with those in need, and I urge you to exercise your discretion to extend TPS for Haitians until they can safely return to Haiti.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin J. Walsh', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Martin J. Walsh
Mayor of Boston

cc: U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, Massachusetts
U.S. Senator Edward J. Markey, Massachusetts
U.S. Congressman Michael E. Capuano, 7th District of Massachusetts
U.S. Congressman Stephen F. Lynch, 8th District of Massachusetts