

[DATE]

Letter to President Trump Urging an 18-Month Extension of Haiti's TPS Designation
from Organizations and Persons Serving the Haitian American Community

Hon. Donald J. Trump,
President of the United States

Dear President Trump:

On May 18, 130 organizations and 200 individuals serving the Haitian American community wrote urging you to extend Haiti's Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for 18 months due to recent extraordinary blows, including the 2010 earthquake, from which recovery is incomplete; the still-unchecked cholera epidemic, which has killed 10,000 Haitians and sickened over 800,000; and last October's Category 4 Hurricane Matthew, the worst to hit Haiti in 52 years, which cost Haiti \$2.8 billion, 32% of its GDP, leaving 1.5 million food insecure. Little has changed since we wrote you in May, and we respectfully incorporate that letter herein.

These three blows — each “extraordinary” per the TPS statute — make an 18-month extension beyond January 22 appropriate, as urged by Haiti's government, which won't be able to safely assimilate 58,000 more deportees or replace their remittances to an estimated 350,000 relatives before mid-2019, in addition to dealing with hurricane and quake recovery and cholera, which before its 2010 introduction by UN peacekeepers hadn't existed in Haiti for at least a century.

The United States Conference of Mayors, the Broward and Miami-Dade County Commissions, US Senators Rubio and Nelson joined by eight US congresspersons from Florida, and others are urging an 18-month extension, joining 100 US senators and representatives of both parties, 416 faith leaders, 550 US doctors, 14 big city mayors, and the *Miami Herald*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Boston Globe*, *Orlando Sentinel*, *Palm Beach Post*, and *Sun Sentinel* editorial boards in urging such a course.

Mr. President, you referenced Haiti's “turmoil and pain and suffering that so many people are going through” in September, 2016 remarks in Miami, when you said, “The 2010 Haitian earthquake unleashed a horrible and catastrophic devastation: over 300,000 dead, unbelievable, 300,000, millions displaced or injured, homes, businesses, schools reduced to rubble; amid the suffering Haiti showed the world so much heart and so much incredible resilience, but *the truth is Haiti is still suffering very badly, maybe as badly*, after all of the tears and all of the money and all of the work (italics added).”

You continued, in words that we appreciated, “whether you vote for me or don't vote me, I really want to be your greatest champion, and I will be your champion whether you

vote for me or not.... we are going to do things for you folks that you have really deserved for a long time. You're an amazing community, and it's an honor to be with you."

Many Haitian Americans *did* vote for you. We respectfully ask that you protect the most vulnerable among us — including U.S.-born children who shouldn't have to choose between their future as Americans and their parents — by reviewing these extraordinary current conditions in Haiti and acting accordingly. The TPS statute contemplates the kind of blows Haiti suffered last October and since 2010: nearly 40,000 earthquake victims remain in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps, with 200,000 more in a camp simply renamed a "settlement" (Canaan); the UN has raised only \$10 million of \$400 million it recently targeted to address the cholera epidemic, which continues to claim lives; and recovery from last Fall's Hurricane Matthew is far from complete, with food insecurity from its destruction of crops, livestock and infrastructure still a reality. As FEMA can attest, recovery from such disasters often takes years.

We have suggested to members of your Administration that they meet with nationally and internationally respected experts on these conditions, so that their recommendations and decisions may be fully informed, and we would be honored to meet with you, Mr. President, to discuss this issue of tremendous importance to our community, which DHS must decide by November 23.

Sincerely,

[list of organizations and individuals endorsing]

cc:

Hon. Elaine Duke, Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Hon. Rex Tillerson, Secretary
U.S. Department of State

Hon. John F. Kelly
Chief of Staff to the President