

RESOLUTION URGING PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP AND
THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND
SECURITY TO EXTEND TEMPORARY PROTECTED
STATUS FOR HAITIAN NATIONALS

WHEREAS, on January 15, 2010, the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Haitian nationals who were in the United States as of January 12, 2010, the date of the devastating earthquake in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, the TPS designation allows eligible Haitian nationals to temporarily continue living and working in the United States; and

WHEREAS, TPS was made available to Haitian nationals for 18 months from January 12, 2010 to July 22, 2011; and

WHEREAS, on July 23, 2011, Haiti's TPS designation was extended and redesignated for 18 months, and the latest extension of TPS occurred on January 23, 2016 and expires on July 22, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Haiti has not yet recovered from the 2010 earthquake; the nation suffers from economic and political crises, rampant Zika and Chikungunya, the effects of a devastating cholera epidemic which has killed 10,000 and sickened 900,000, and most recently, the destructive effects of Hurricane Matthew, which cost Haiti \$2.7 billion or 32% of its GDP per a March, 2017 United Nations report; and

WHEREAS, on October 4, 2016, Hurricane Matthew was the first Category 4 hurricane to hit Haiti in 52 years; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Matthew affected 2 million Haitians, left at least 1.4 million in need of emergency aid, killed 1,000 people, rendered 806,000 people extremely food insecure, left 1,250,000 Haitians—including a half-million children—without safe water, wiped out

livestock and crops in broad areas, damaged or destroyed 1,663 schools, dramatically increased the number of cholera cases in Haiti, and left entire towns completely destroyed and cut off from the outside world by flooding and damage; and

WHEREAS, nearly six months later the United Nations estimates that hundreds of thousands of Haitians remain “extremely food insecure,” some have died as a result of malnutrition, and thousands may starve to death in what experts describe as a looming humanitarian disaster; and

WHEREAS, in “Desperate Haitians living in caves, eating toxic plants in post-hurricane Haiti,” by Jacqueline Charles, *Miami Herald*, March 24, 2017, Food for the Poor’s President/CEO is quoted as saying, “They have no food. They have no water. They have no shelter...It really is a crime against humanity.”; and

WHEREAS, per the same article, a few days earlier the same charity “reported that at least 13 Haitians in the Grand’Anse had died over the past 10 days because of hurricane-related food shortages in the region, and ‘Families are turning in desperation to fruits and foliage known to be poisonous in an attempt to quell their hunger and save their lives,’ the charity said in a press release. Haiti’s current humanitarian situation is precarious and likely to get worse, the United Nations’ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs warned. [and] The vast majority of agricultural households have not recovered their means of production, their financial situation is rapidly deteriorating and their access to basic services has diminished considerably because of the end of emergency programs,” the U.N. humanitarian agency said in a report published last month.”; and

WHEREAS, per the same article, “While two out of three farmers in the Grand’Anse region lost three-fourths of their crops as a result of Matthew, the U.N. humanitarian agency also noted that 95 percent of farmers were unable to plant for the February or May harvest.”; and

WHEREAS, such reports are many and proliferating, indicating a worsening humanitarian crisis affecting hundreds of thousands of Haitians with which Haiti’s government is unable to cope; and

WHEREAS, the 50,000 Haitians with TPS have been in the US for at least six and a half years, the vast majority since well before the January 2010 earthquake, and have strong community ties including families with U.S.-born, American-citizen children; and

WHEREAS, the \$1.3B per year in remittances sent to Haiti from Haitians in the U.S. are crucial to sustain hundreds of thousands of loved ones back home in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations has raised barely \$2 million of its \$400 million minimum goal to fight cholera in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, Haiti’s government is in no position to insure safety to or assimilate the 50,000 Haitians with TPS, nor to make up for their remittances should they be curtailed by their deportation, and it remains unsafe to deport them; and

WHEREAS, their deportation would consequently tend to destabilize Haiti, which is contrary to the national security interest of the United States; and

WHEREAS, there continue to be extraordinary and temporary conditions that prevent Haitian nationals from safely returning to Haiti, and therefore TPS should be extended for an additional 18 months.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY . . . , that this . . . :

Section 1. Urges Secretary of Homeland Security John F. Kelly to extend Temporary Protected Status for Haitian nationals for at least another 18-month period.