RESOLUTION URGING PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITYTO EXTEND TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS (TPS) FOR HAITIAN NATIONALS

**WHEREAS**, on January 15, 2010, the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) designated Haiti for Temporary Protected Status (TPS), permitting Haitian nationals to apply for TPS if they were present in the United States on or before January 12, 2010, the date of Haiti’s devastating earthquake; and

**WHEREAS**, the designation allowed eligible Haitian nationals to temporarily continue living and working in the United States, if they for the requisite fee had applied for and received a work permit; and

**WHEREAS**, TPS was given for 18 months, from January 12, 2010 to July 22, 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, Haiti’s TPS designation was appropriately extended in 18-month increments, the latest on January 23, 2016 expiring on July 22, 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, Haiti has not yet recovered from the 2010 earthquake and since then has been hit by unique and additional calamities including Hurricane Matthew last October, which cost Haiti $2.7 billion or 32% of its GDP per a March, 2017 United Nations report; an unchecked cholera epidemic, inadvertently introduced in October 2010 by UN peacekeepers from Nepal, which by conservative estimates has killed 10,000 and sickened 900,000 and which was exacerbated by Hurricane Matthew; years of political turmoil and economic challenges, and rampant Zika and Chikungunya; 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; see for example, “Six months after Hurricane Matthew, food, shelter still scarce in Haiti,” *Miami Herald*, April 12, 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, the 50,000 Haitians with TPS have been in the US since at least January 12, 2011, the vast majority for 7 to 15 years, and have strong community ties including families with U.S.-born, American-citizen children who should not have to choose between their parents and their birthright as Americans if their parents are deported to Haiti; and

**WHEREAS**, the 50,000 Haitians with TPS regularly send remittances to Haiti which sustain as many as 500,000 relatives there, and Haitians in the United States in 2015 sent to Haiti $1.3B in remittances, which are Haiti’s chief source of foreign aid; 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 safely assimilate or care for the 50,000 Haitians with TPS should they be deported, nor to replace their crucial remittances, and it remains unsafe to deport them; and

WHEREAS, Haiti’s overwhelmed new government is unable to cope with the effects of the cholera epidemic and Hurricane Matthew, much less to assimilate 50,000 additional deportees or replace their remittances; and

**WHEREAS**, their deportation should DHS not extend TPS for another 18 months would destabilize Haiti, increasing desperation and possibly leading to sea voyages entailing loss of life and increased U.S. Coast Guard interdiction actions and resources; and

WHEREAS, Haiti’s stability is in the national security interest of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, there continue to be extraordinary, temporary, and unique conditions and challenges in Haiti that make it impossible to safely deport these 50,000 long-resident Haitians to Haiti, and therefore TPS should be extended for an additional 18 months; and

WHEREAS, bipartisan support urging DHS to extend Haiti TPS for another 18 months includes a March 24 letter from U.S. Senators Schumer and Gillibrand of New York; a March 24 letter from Senators Rubio and Nelson of Florida joined by eight U.S. Representatives from Florida including three Republicans; a March 14 letter from Rep. Mia Love (R, Utah); many city and county councils; and

WHEREAS, support includes the editorial boards of the *Miami Herald* and *Sun Sentinel* on April 16 and April 19 respectively, in editorials entitled “Extend Temporary Protected Status for Haitians” and “Extend protection for Haitian immigrants – Failing to extend protection for 50,000 Haitians would be a disaster for them, their children and those back home”;

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

**Section 1.** Urges Secretary of Homeland Security John F. Kelly to extend TPS for Haitian nationals for at least another 18-month period; and

Section 2. Urges President Donald Trump to instruct DHS Secretary Kelly to extend TPS for Haitian nationals for at least another 18-month period.