

RESOLUTION URGING PRESIDENT TRUMP TO HONOR
HIS CAMPAIGN PLEDGES TO THE HAITIAN AMERICAN
COMMUNITY BY EXTENDING HAITI'S TEMPORARY
PROTECTED STATUS DESIGNATION FOR 18 MONTHS
BEYOND JANUARY 22, 2018

WHEREAS, President Trump on September 16, 2016 told Haitian Americans he would be their “greatest champion,” praising their “perseverance, entrepreneurship, creativity, [and] faith” and saying “all the things that make America good and strong can be found right here, amazing people, so I come here today to say that the Haitian American community deserves our gratitude and our respect, and I want you to know you have my respect,” and

WHEREAS, President Trump continued, “its simply hard to believe that something like that could have happened, the turmoil and pain and suffering that so many people are going through. 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), and

WHEREAS, President Trump continued, “The Haitian people deserve better, so ... I will give them better. Today we begin a new chapter, together we will build a relationship based on mutual respect and friendship and love, and ... we will really do something very special with our commonly shared values, because we have lots of commonly shared values, maybe *full* shared values.... and 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,” and

WHEREAS, an issue of great concern and shared value in Haitian American communities is that the Trump administration should extend Haiti's Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for at least 18 months beyond its current January 22, 2018 expiration date due to, and until it has recovered from, recent extraordinary calamities, including the 2010 earthquake from which recovery remains incomplete with scores of thousands of quake victims still homeless; the unchecked cholera epidemic introduced by United Nations (UN) peacekeepers in October 2010 (Haiti had not had cholera for at least the prior 100 years) which has killed at least 10,000 and sickened over 800,000, and for which the UN to date has raised only \$10 million of its recently-targeted \$400 million to address the epidemic; and last October's Hurricane Matthew, the worst in 52 years, which killed 1,000 people, left hundreds of thousands without safe water or food, inundated vast areas and towns and destroyed crops, livestock, and infrastructure in broad areas; struck Haiti's southern peninsula, one of the nation's breadbaskets, exacerbating the nation's food insecurity crisis after a three-year drought in Haiti's rice-growing Artibonite; exacerbated the unchecked cholera epidemic, spiking cases of the water-borne disease; and caused Haiti's government recently to declare a "state of emergency" in Haiti's south; and

WHEREAS, on May 22, 2017, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) extended Haiti's Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for only six months, warning recipients to be prepared to return to Haiti, and it is now scheduled to end on January 22, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Haiti's government has requested an extension of at least 18 months to enable it to deal with the overwhelming challenges facing the country due to these calamities, and DHS by November 23 must decide whether to terminate or extend Haiti's TPS designation, and

WHEREAS, President Trump will violate his campaign pledges to the Haitian American community if DHS does not extend Haiti's TPS designation for 18 months; and

WHEREAS, before May 22, prior Haiti TPS extensions had always been for 18-month periods, based on an accurate assessment of Haiti conditions; and

WHEREAS, in a detailed December 2016 assessment, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) concluded that conditions in Haiti warranting TPS persist, and then-Secretary of State Kerry recommended its extension; and

WHEREAS, a few months later USCIS under President Trump recommended *against* extension, contradicting its December assessment, and its new head of policy and strategy urged staff to find evidence of Haitian “criminality” to justify ending TPS, demonizing an entire ethnicity and despite the TPS statute’s disqualification of anyone with a felony or two misdemeanors; and

WHEREAS, TPS is a humanitarian program to which such considerations are irrelevant and violative of the President’s pledges to respect and greatly champion Haitian Americans; and

WHEREAS, Haiti’s government, overwhelmed by the recent extraordinary calamities of earthquake, cholera epidemic, Hurricane Matthew, and food insecurity, is struggling to cope; and

WHEREAS, the 50,000 Haitians with TPS have been in the US since at least January 12, 2011, most for 7 to 15 years, and have community ties including U.S.-born children who should not have to choose between their parents and their birthright as Americans; and

WHEREAS, these 50,000 Haitians regularly send remittances which sustain about 250,000 to 500,000 relatives in Haiti, which in 2015 received from Haitians in the United States \$1.3 billion in remittances, which are Haiti’s chief source of foreign assistance; and

WHEREAS, Haiti’s government while struggling to recover from the recent catastrophes described above — including scores of thousands of quake victims remaining homeless, the unchecked cholera epidemic for which the UN to date has raised insufficient funds, Hurricane Mat-

their vast destruction, and food insecurity, not to mention an influx of repatriates from the Dominican Republic and other challenges — until at least mid-2019 will be unable to safely receive or assimilate 50,000 Haitians with TPS or replace their remittances, which help sustain its economy, rendering such deportations both unsafe and destabilizing; and

WHEREAS, such deportations would therefore increase desperation and migration, resulting in tragedies at sea and requiring increased U.S. Coast Guard interdiction resources; and

WHEREAS, Haiti's recovery and stability are in the national security interest of the United States, and the extension of Haiti's TPS designation for no less than 18 months is therefore in the national security interests of both the United States and Haiti; and

WHEREAS, Haiti is a textbook case for TPS and its generous extension, given the extraordinary events and facts described above; and

WHEREAS, bipartisan political, editorial, and civil society support for a generous extension is great and has included 100 members of Congress, major national and Florida editorial boards, Republican governors Scott of Florida and Baker of Massachusetts, religious leaders and professionals, among many other national and local organizations and other leaders; and

WHEREAS, TPS recipients must pay \$410 in fees each time they reregister;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of X STRONGLY:

Section 1. Urges President Donald Trump to instruct DHS to extend Haiti's TPS designation for no less than 18 months beyond its current January 22, 2018 expiration date; and

Section 2. Urges Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to recommend to President Trump and to DHS that conditions in Haiti fully warrant that DHS should extend Haiti's TPS designation for no less than 18 months beyond its current January 22, 2018 expiration date; and

Section 3. Urges DHS Acting Secretary Elaine Duke to extend Haiti's TPS designation for no less than 18 months beyond its current January 22, 2018 expiration date; and

Section 4. Authorizes transmission of this Resolution to President Donald F. Trump, White House Chief of Staff John F. Kelly, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, and Acting DHS Secretary Elaine Duke.