

RESOLUTION URGING PRESIDENT TRUMP TO HONOR  
HIS CAMPAIGN PROMISES 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, “it’s 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 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) should extend Haiti's Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for no less than 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 nearly 40,000 earthquake victims still remaining in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps and 200,000 more in a camp simply renamed a "settlement" (Canaan); 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 devastating Hurricane Matthew, a Category 4 hurricane with 145 mph winds and the worst to hit Haiti 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 key breadbaskets, greatly 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, 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 is requesting an extension of no less than 18 months to enable it to deal with the overwhelming challenges facing the nation 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 have violated his campaign promises 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 promise to respect and greatly champion Haitian Americans; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the 58,000 Haitians with TPS have been in the US since at least January 12, 2011, most for 7 to 16 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 58,000 Haitians regularly send remittances which sustain about 320,000 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 incomplete earthquake recovery, the unchecked cholera epidemic for which the UN to date has raised insufficient funds, Hurricane Matthew's vast destruction, and food insecurity, plus an influx of repatriates expelled from the Dominican Republic and other challenges — until at least mid-2019 will be unable to safely receive or assimilate 58,000 Haitians with TPS or replace their remittances, which help sustain its economy, rendering such deportations both unsafe and destabilizing; and

**WHEREAS**, such deportations would increase desperation and migration, resulting in tragedies at sea and entailing 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 support for a generous extension of Haiti's TPS designation includes U.S. Senators Rubio and Nelson joined by eight US congresspersons from Florida (September 18 letter) and resolutions by the U.S. Conference of Mayors (June 21), the Broward County Commission (September 14), and the City of North Miami (August 22), all urging an 18 months' extension; and many others urging extension include FL and MA Governors Scott and Baker, 100 U.S. senators and representatives, 416 faith leaders, 550 U.S. doctors, 14 big city

mayors, the entire Massachusetts congressional delegation, at least 15 members of New York's, and the editorial boards of the *Miami Herald*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Boston Globe*, *Orlando Sentinel*, *Palm Beach Post*, and *Sun Sentinel* in at least 10 editorials; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City [County, etc] 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.