

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

**WHEREAS**, President Donald F. Trump addressed a crowd of Haitian Americans in Miami's "Little Haiti" on September 16, 2016 and promised to be the Haitian community's "greatest champion," saying, "The Haitian American community adds so much to our country: dedication to country, perseverance, entrepreneurship, creativity, faith, a lot of faith; 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," winning applause; and

**WHEREAS**, President Trump in those remarks lamented the "horrible and catastrophic devastation" caused by Haiti's earthquake, saying "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," and

**WHEREAS**, President Trump in those remarks said, "I send my prayers, I've been seeing so much as to what's been going on in Haiti, and 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," and

**WHEREAS**, President Trump said during those remarks, winning further applause, "The Haitian people deserve better, so I intend to give them, 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 our community (sic) 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. I'm wanting to be president of all Americans, that's everybody, 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," concluding, "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 (italics added)," and

**WHEREAS**, an issue of great concern and shared value in Haitian American communities throughout the United States is that the Trump administration should extend Haiti's Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for at least 18 months beyond its current expiration date due to, and until it has recovered from, the extraordinary and massive calamities which have recently befallen Haiti, 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 to Haiti in October 2010 (after cholera's absence from Haiti for at least the prior 100 years) which has killed at least 10,000 and sickened over 800,000 to date, and for which the UN to date has raised only \$10 million of its target of \$400 million to begin addressing the epidemic and eradicating the disease from Haiti; and last October's Hurricane Matthew, the worst to hit Haiti in 52 years, which killed 1,000 people, effected two million, left hundreds of thousands without safe drinking water or adequate food, destroyed crops and livestock in broad areas, inundated vast areas and towns and destroyed infrastructure; struck Haiti's southern peninsula, one of the nation's breadbaskets, greatly exacerbating the nation's food insecurity crisis after a three-year drought in Haiti's rice-growing Artibonite; signifi-

cantly exacerbated the cholera epidemic, spiking cases of the disease; and has caused Haiti's government to declare a "state of emergency" in Haiti's south due to the destruction; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 22, 2017, the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) extended Haiti's Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for only six months beyond its then-scheduled July 22, 2017 expiration date, and it is now scheduled to end on January 22, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, DHS's May 22 announcement warned Haitian TPS recipients to prepare to return to Haiti after January 22, 2018 because further extension is by no means assured; and

**WHEREAS**, DHS took these steps despite the requests of Haiti's government, which prior to May 22 in meetings with and at least one letter to high U.S. government officials specifically requested TPS's extension for at least 18 months, and which currently continues to desire an extension beyond January 22, 2018 of at least 18 months to enable it to deal with the overwhelming challenges facing the country due to the above-referenced catastrophes; and

**WHEREAS**, DHS by November 23, 2017 must decide whether to terminate or extend Haiti's TPS designation, and if the latter for how long, and

**WHEREAS**, President Trump will violate his campaign pledges to the Haitian American community, including to be its "greatest champion," if DHS, which is under his control, does not by November 23 extend Haiti's TPS designation for 18 months beyond January 22, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, before DHS's May 22 announcement, prior Haiti TPS extensions had appropriately, based on an assessment of Haiti conditions, always been for 18-month periods; and

**WHEREAS**, in a detailed, eight-page, single-spaced 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**, USCIS a few months later during the Trump administration and despite and contrary to its own detailed assessment a few months earlier as referenced above, recommended *against* extending Haiti's TPS designation, as reported in April, 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, adding insult to injury, USCIS's new head of policy and strategy in emails leaked in April inappropriately urged staff, as a means of justifying terminating Haiti's TPS designation, to dig up evidence of Haitian "criminality," demonizing an entire ethnicity and despite or ignorant of the fact that the TPS statute itself makes anyone with a felony or more than a single misdemeanor statutorily ineligible for TPS; and

**WHEREAS**, TPS is a humanitarian program to which such considerations are also irrelevant, indicating that newly-appointed, anti-immigrant zealots within the Trump administration were seeking arguments to terminate Haiti's TPS designation regardless of the merits, contradicting President Trump's expressions last September of "respect" for Haitian Americans and of appreciation for their "dedication to country, perseverance, entrepreneurship, creativity, [and] faith," and in violation of his promise if elected to be the community's "greatest champion," and

**WHEREAS**, as stated 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; the unchecked cholera epidemic inadvertently introduced in October 2010 by UN peacekeepers from Nepal, which by conservative estimates has killed at least 10,000 and sickened over 800,000 and which was exacerbated by Hurricane Matthew; the current food insecurity crisis; and Zika and Chikungunya; and

**WHEREAS**, as previously referenced, on October 4, 2016, Hurricane Matthew was the first Category 4 hurricane to hit Haiti in 52 years, 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 drinking 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, destruction of infrastructure, and damage; and

**WHEREAS**, the United Nations confirms that hundreds of thousands of Haitians remain “extremely food insecure” as a result of Matthew, many have died as a result of malnutrition, and thousands may starve in what experts have described as a looming humanitarian disaster, leading to a declared “state of emergency” in effected areas; and

**WHEREAS**, such reports reflect a well-reported severe humanitarian crisis affecting a few million Haitians with which Haiti’s government, overwhelmed by these recent extraordinary calamities, is struggling to cope; 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 with TPS regularly send remittances which sustain perhaps 250,000 to 500,000 family members in Haiti and under present conditions are crucial to Haiti’s stability, and Haitians in the United States sent to Haiti \$1.3B in remittances in 2015, which are Haiti’s chief source of foreign aid; and

**WHEREAS**, Haiti’s government while seeking to recover from the recent catastrophes described above — including incomplete earthquake recovery with scores of thousands of quake victims remaining homeless, the unchecked cholera epidemic for which the UN to date has

raised insufficient funds, Hurricane Matthew's vast destruction, and the food insecurity crisis — is and until at least mid-2019 will be able to neither additionally safely assimilate the 50,000 Haitians with TPS should they be deported nor replace their remittances which are crucial to its economy; and it remains unsafe to deport them to Haiti; and

**WHEREAS**, their deportation to Haiti would therefore be destabilizing, increasing desperation and leading to more unsafe sea voyages, entailing increased loss of life at sea and the commitment of increased U.S. Coast Guard interdiction actions and resources; and

**WHEREAS**, Haiti's recovery and stability are in the national security interest of the United States, and therefore the extension of Haiti's TPS designation for no less than 18 months beyond its current January 22, 2018 expiration date is in the national security interests of both the United States and of Haiti; and

**WHEREAS**, under the TPS statute, Haiti is a textbook case for TPS and for its generous extension beyond January 22, 2018, given the extraordinary events described above, which also make it unsafe and unwise to terminate TPS for 50,000 long-resident Haitian TPS holders whose remittances are important to Haiti's stability and the welfare of her people; and

**WHEREAS**, bipartisan political, editorial, and civil society support for a generous extension of Haiti's TPS designation based on Haiti conditions 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 political and other leaders;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of North Miami  
STRONGLY AND RESPECTFULLY:**

**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.