

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 27, 2017

Honorable Elaine C. Duke, Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security,
3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Acting Secretary Duke:

We write to encourage you to exercise your authority under Section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254(a)) to extend Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitian nationals for an additional 18 months at the conclusion of the most recent six-month extension. TPS is central to our country's commitment in providing safe haven to individuals unable to securely return to their home country due to ongoing violence, environmental disasters, or other extraordinary conditions. Haiti continues to face such conditions.

As Secretary Kelly stated in his May 24, 2017 extension of TPS, "the damage from Hurricane Matthew and the recent heavy rains are compounding the existing food insecurity experienced by an estimated 3.2 million people." This statement is even more relevant today in the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. For example, Hurricane Irma's impact on Haiti has resulted in further devastation of arable farmland in the Northwestern part of the country, crippling acres of arable farmland. This destruction has also eroded critical infrastructure in rural areas, leading many villages to be cut off from nearby cities and much needed assistance.

Additionally, the recent hurricanes have caused a substantial amount of continued civil unrest, reducing Haiti's capacity to absorb the approximately 58,000 Haitian nationals living in the United States under TPS. The Haitian government has repeatedly stated that it is unable to handle the re-patriation of these citizens, due to its ongoing efforts to rebuild after the damage caused by the 2010 earthquake, subsequent cholera outbreak, Hurricane Matthew and the flooding caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Given these recent storms and the Government of Haiti's plan to rebuild their country and boost economic activity, the United States needs to remain steadfast in its assistance to Haiti. In order to allow for the full implementation of these efforts, and given the ongoing extraordinary conditions in Haiti, we urge you to extend the TPS designation for 18 months, within all applicable rules and regulations, for Haitian nationals who are currently living in, and contributing to, our great country.

Cordially,


Carlos Curbelo Alcee L. Hastings Mia Love Frederica Wilson