



ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND
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SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONTRACTING
AND WORKFORCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC GROWTH, TAX AND
CAPITAL ACCESS

STEPHANIE MURPHY

7TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

May 16, 2017

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The Honorable John F. Kelly
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20016

Dear Secretary Kelly:

I write to respectfully urge you to exercise your authority under Section 244 of the Immigration and National Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a) to renew Haiti's Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation, which grants temporary relief from deportation for foreign nationals in the United States whose return to their home country would subject them to extraordinary hardship. Without action, Haiti's current TPS designation will expire on July 22, 2017 and compel approximately 50,000 Haitian nationals—including thousands of residents of my Florida district—to return to unsafe conditions in their home country.

As you know, TPS has provided a safe haven to Haitian nationals residing in the United States since 2010. This temporary reprieve was first granted in the aftermath of the 2010 Haiti earthquake, which killed an estimated 300,000 people and displaced more than 1.5 million people. In parts of the country that were hit the hardest, including the capital of Port-au-Prince, the earthquake forced many public institutions, schools, and medical facilities to shut down. The earthquake also caused severe damage to the country's infrastructure, crops, and irrigation canals—cutting off access to food, clean water, and medical services.

The Haiti earthquake was soon followed by one of the worst cholera outbreaks in recent history, an epidemic that has claimed the lives of an estimated 9,000 people and infected 800,000 more to date. In addition, Haiti continues to recover from the effects of Hurricane Matthew in 2016, which led to widespread flooding and other perilous conditions that exacerbated the ongoing cholera crisis in the country. It is estimated that this Category 4 hurricane resulted in 1.4 million people in need of immediate assistance.

Since 2010, the United States has identified both a compelling humanitarian and economic rationale to extend the country's TPS designation several times—most recently in August 2015. To this day, Haiti continues to rebuild and recover from the aforementioned string of tragic events, and conditions in the country remain far too dangerous for its nationals to return. It is worth emphasizing that Haitian TPS beneficiaries have contributed meaningfully to the U.S. economy, including beneficiaries who reside and work in the central Florida region.

For these reasons, I echo the many elected officials from Florida that have respectfully asked you to grant Haiti an extension of its TPS designation, including Governor Rick Scott, Senator Marco Rubio, Senator Bill Nelson, Congressman Alcee Hastings and other members of the Florida House delegation. Without a significant improvement in conditions in Haiti, denying current Haitian TPS holders an extension would be inhumane and out of character for a country that has historically demonstrated compassion toward the Haitian people.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Murphy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress