

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 30, 2022

Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane, SW
Washington, DC 20528

RECEIVED

By ESEC at 6:56 am, Dec 01, 2022

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

We write to request that the Administration extend and redesignate Temporary Protected Status (“TPS”) to Haiti due to the extraordinary and temporary conditions facing the country. Specifically, we urge an extension for TPS beneficiaries not affected by *Ramos v. Mayorkas*, and redesignation so that those who arrived after July 29, 2021 can benefit.

Haiti is currently experiencing one of its worst outbreaks of violence in decades. The rule of law has effectively collapsed. Powerful gangs rule with impunity, and in some cases with government complicity, as demonstrated by recent sanctions imposed by the U.S. and Canada on current and former Presidents of the Haitian Senate, and by Canada on former President Michel Martelly and two former prime ministers.¹ For months, a gang blockade at Haiti’s principal fuel terminal crippled day-to-day operations, severely restricting the movement of medicine, food and supplies.² The situation paralyzed an already crippled economy in the country, where the inflation rate reached a staggering 30%.³ This has all occurred amid a resurgence of cholera in the country, particularly in Haiti’s National Penitentiary in Port-au-Prince. Since October, the disease has killed at least 100 people and sickened 8,000 more, though experts say the numbers are likely higher.⁴

Given the deteriorating situation in Haiti, this Administration should prioritize humanitarian relief, especially given the positive impact that extending and redesignating Haiti for TPS will have for our nation. Approximately 80% of Haitians currently in the U.S. are in the labor force and contribute over

¹ Harold Isaac and Brian Ellsworth, *Canada sanctions Haiti ex-President Martelly for financing gangs*, REUTERS (Nov. 20, 2022), <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/canada-sanctions-haiti-ex-president-martelly-financing-gangs-2022-11-20/>; Daphne Psadedakis and Rami Ayyub, *U.S., Canada sanction Haitian politicians, accuse of gang ties*, REUTERS (Nov. 4, 2022), <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/us-canada-impose-sanctions-two-haitian-politicians-2022-11-04/>; Paul Angelo, *Opinion: There Is a New Kidnapping Capital of the World. Here’s What We Need to Do About It.*, N.Y. TIMES (Oct. 25, 2021), <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/25/opinion/haiti-kidnapping-gangs.html>

² Harold Isaac and Brian Ellsworth, *Haiti police end gang blockade of fuel terminal, sources say*, REUTERS (Nov. 4, 2022), <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/haiti-police-confront-gangs-near-blocked-fuel-terminal-sources-say-2022-11-03/>

³ Evens Sanon and Danica Coto, *Haiti at breaking point as economic tanks and violence soars*, AP (Oct. 4, 2022), <https://apnews.com/article/inflation-caribbean-united-nations-economy-port-au-prince-56d75dbd2a77ac97901c81456e6b2e35>

⁴ Natalie Kitroeff, *Gang Warfare Cripples Haiti’s Fight Against Cholera*, N.Y. TIMES (Nov. 19, 2022), <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/19/world/americas/haiti-cholera-gang-violence.html>

\$2.6 billion to our economy each year.⁵ At a time when we have labor shortages and high inflation, they are on the frontlines providing essential services to our nation. Moreover, redesignating Haiti for TPS would allow more Haitian nationals in the U.S. to contribute their skills and talents to the American workforce.

As Haitians face an unprecedented crisis in their home country, we strongly urge the Administration to extend the 2021 designation and redesignate Haiti for TPS, swiftly release the Federal Register Notice, and provide a minimum 180-day registration period for both current TPS holders and new beneficiaries under redesignation. We thank you for your commitment to these issues, and look forward to engaging further.

Sincerely,



Cori Bush
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress



Troy Carter
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress

⁵ Fwd.us, *Temporary Protected Status is critically important immigration relief for TPS holders and the U.S. economy* (Apr. 13, 2022), <https://www.fwd.us/news/temporary-protected-status-report/>



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Val Butler Demings
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Chair
Subcommittee on
Immigration and Citizenship



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

CC:

Antony J. Blinken, Secretary of State



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

January 13, 2023

The Honorable Cori Bush
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Bush:

Thank you for your November 30, 2022 letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requesting that Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haiti be extended and re-designated, that a new Federal Register Notice (FRN) be issued swiftly, and that a 180-day registration period be provided. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is principally responsible for advising Secretary Mayorkas on TPS issues, and he asked that I respond on his behalf.

I appreciate the concerns you have outlined regarding the situation in Haiti and your interest in its redesignation for TPS. As you know, on December 5, 2022, after careful consideration, including a thorough review of the country conditions and consultation with interagency partners, Secretary Mayorkas announced the extension of TPS for Haiti for an additional 18 months, from February 4, 2023, through August 3, 2024. The Secretary also redesignated Haiti for TPS, enabling Haitian nationals (and individuals without nationality who last habitually resided in Haiti) who have been continuously residing in the United States since November 6, 2022, to file applications to register for TPS. For additional information, please see the press release announcing the extension and redesignation of TPS for Haiti.¹

Haiti's 18-month redesignation will go into effect on the publication date of the forthcoming FRN, which will provide information on the registration period and instructions for applying for TPS and an Employment Authorization Document. (EAD). The FRN will also provide information about fees and how applicants may request a fee waiver, if necessary.

In addition to TPS, USCIS also offers support that may be available upon request to assist eligible Haitian nationals who have been affected by conditions there, including the following:

¹ <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/12/05/secretary-mayorkas-extends-and-redesignates-temporary-protected-status-haiti-18>.

The Honorable Cori Bush

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- Change or extension of nonimmigrant status if eligible Haitian nationals are currently in the United States, even if the request is filed after the authorized period of admission has expired;
- Expedited processing of requests for advance parole documents;
- Expedited adjudication of requests for off-campus employment authorization for F-1 students experiencing severe economic hardship;
- Expedited adjudication of employment authorization applications, where appropriate;
- Assistance if applicants received a Request for Evidence or a Notice of Intent to Deny and were unable to appear for an interview, submit evidence, or respond in a timely manner because of the natural disaster; and
- Replacement of lost or damaged immigration or travel documents issued by USCIS, such as a Permanent Resident Card (Green Card).

More information on these options is available under “Special Situations” on our website at <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/special-situations>.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. The cosigners of your letter will receive a separate, identical response. Should you require any additional assistance, please have your staff contact the USCIS Office of Legislative Affairs at (240) 721-3801.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ur M. Jaddou", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Ur M. Jaddou
Director