

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

November 9, 2021

Cindy Huang  
Director  
Office of Refugee Resettlement  
Administration for Children and Families  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
330 C Street, SW, 5th Floor  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Director Huang:

We write to ask the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to cooperate fully with the government agencies of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the resettlement of Haitians within the Commonwealth. In particular, we ask that you promptly and regularly provide information—including requests for assistance and information about potential eligibility for support services—to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) without any further delay.

Massachusetts is home to one of the largest Haitian communities in the United States.<sup>1</sup> As such, it is a fitting destination for resettlement of Haitians who are seeking refuge in this country. Many Haitians are fleeing life-threatening conditions in their home country. As Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas said in May, “Haiti is currently experiencing serious security concerns, social unrest, an increase in human rights abuses, crippling poverty, and lack of basic resources, which are exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.”<sup>2</sup> These conditions were part of why he announced a new 18-month Temporary Protected Status designation for Haiti earlier this year.<sup>3</sup>

We encourage you to do all you can to ensure that the process of resettling Haitians in Massachusetts proceeds smoothly. Information-sharing with the relevant officials in the Massachusetts government should be a priority. In particular, we ask that you provide the following information to the EOHHS:

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<sup>1</sup> WBUR, “Massachusetts’ Haitian Community Reacts To The Assassination Of The President,” Tiziana Dearing, Walter Wuthmann, Ali Audet, July 8, 2021, <https://www.wbur.org/radioboston/2021/07/08/massachusetts-haitian-community-reacts>.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Homeland Security, “Secretary Mayorkas Designates Haiti for Temporary Protected Status for 18 Months,” press release, May 22, 2021, <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2021/05/22/secretary-mayorkas-designates-haiti-temporary-protected-status-18-months>.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, “Temporary Protected Status Designated Country: Haiti,” <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status/temporary-protected-status-designated-country-haiti>; 86 FR 41863.

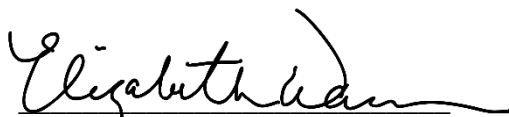
- The number of Haitian arrivals that can be expected in Massachusetts, and the timeline for their arrivals.
- Whether Haitian arrivals to Massachusetts who had been in custody at the Mexican border are considered Haitian Entrants who are eligible for ORR benefits and services, as well as other state and federal government supports.
- Whether Haitian arrivals will be recognized as eligible for ORR benefits (and thus other federally funded benefits) even if they do not qualify as Haitian Entrants.
- Current, clear guidance regarding immigration statuses that confer eligibility for ORR benefits and services as a Haitian Entrant. We understand that Massachusetts authorities have already reviewed 45 CFR Part 401, as well as ORR Status and Documentation Requirements and ORR Policy Letter 19-06. Therefore, we hope your guidance will extend beyond pointing them to this information, and that it might include examples of relevant documents they are likely to need to submit.
- Clarification regarding mixed-status families (e.g., whether the status of the family as a whole will be considered “entrant” and eligible for ORR benefits and services).
- Whether supplemental funding will be provided to meet emergency housing and social support needs for entrants.

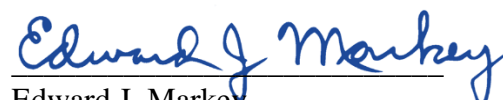
Once this information is provided, we also ask that you provide regular updates as necessary and promptly answer any follow-up questions that your partners in Massachusetts government agencies might pose in order to facilitate the resettlement of Haitians.

We ask that you confirm for us no later than November 19, 2021, that you have provided this information to the EOHHS and any other relevant Massachusetts agencies. If you are unable to provide this information, we ask that you inform us—as soon as possible, and certainly no later than November 19, 2021—why you are unable to do so.

We thank you for your important work and appreciate your partnership with officials in Massachusetts to help Haitian people in need.

Sincerely,

  
Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator

  
Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



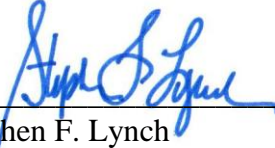
Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress



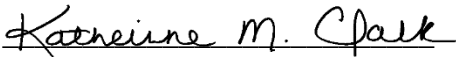
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



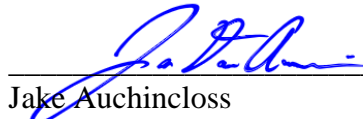
Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



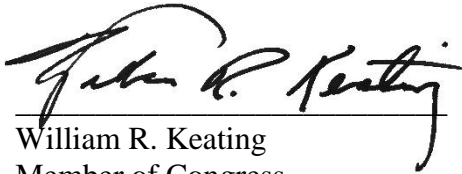
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Katherine Clark  
Member of Congress



Jake Auchincloss  
United States Senator



William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress