

United States Senate

October 26, 2022

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

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Mayorkas and Secretary Blinken:

We write to call for an immediate extension and redesignation of Haiti for Temporary Protected Status (TPS). In light of the worsening conditions in Haiti, including prolific gang violence, widespread civil and political unrest since the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse, and the inability of average Haitians to obtain gasoline, food, water, health care, and other basic necessities, extending and redesignating Haiti's TPS status is urgently warranted.

On August 3, 2021, the Biden administration designated Haiti for TPS for a period of 18 months.¹ Since then, the systemic collapse of the country's economy and the complete erosion of the rule of law, as evidenced by criminal gangs' control over most aspects of life in Port-au-Prince and other municipalities, have forced Haitians to flee their country in growing numbers.² The U.S. Coast Guard reports that its crews interdicted 6,114 Haitian migrants at sea during federal fiscal year 2022, 4,500 more than in the previous fiscal year.³ Haitians fleeing their

¹ Designation of Haiti for Temporary Protected Status, 86 Fed. Reg. 41863 (Aug. 3, 2021), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/08/03/2021-16481/designation-of-haiti-for-temporary-protected-status>.

² World Report 2022: Rights Trends in Haiti, Human Rights Watch (2022), <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/haiti#:~:text=Over%20a%20third%20of%20the,suffer%20moderate%20to%20severe%20malnutrition>.

³ Multimedia Release, U.S. Coast Guard Repatriates 98 People to Haiti, U.S. Embassy in Haiti (June 29, 2022), <https://ht.usembassy.gov/u-s-coast-guard-repatriates-98-people-to-haiti/>.

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homeland often resort to dangerous journeys across the Caribbean Sea, and in July 2022 alone, 17 Haitians died after their vessel capsized off the coast of the Bahamas.⁴

According to Human Rights Watch, “more than a third of Haitians—4.4 million—experience food insecurity . . . and 217,000 children suffer moderate to severe malnutrition.”⁵ The United Nations has also reported that the “gang crisis has driven more than 20,000 people from their homes”⁶ and has documented “from January to the end of June [2022], 934 killings, 684 injuries and 680 kidnappings” in Port-au-Prince.⁷

The global COVID-19 pandemic and associated economic crisis, the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse, and a 7.2 magnitude earthquake in August 2021 have exacerbated Haiti’s daunting challenges of political instability and gang violence.⁸ Further compounding this dire situation is Haiti’s recently reported cholera outbreak, with the first case confirmed on October 2, 2022.⁹ As of October 16, 2022, there have been 835 suspected cases, 78 confirmed cases, and at least 36 deaths documented.¹⁰ The lack of access to clean water and sanitation, pervasive food insecurity, and inadequate health care has allowed this outbreak to spread rapidly.

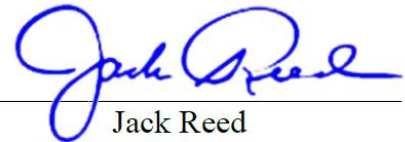
Extending and redesignating Haiti for TPS will prevent further hardship and unnecessary loss of life.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator

⁴ Bryan Pietsch, *At Least 17 Haitians Dead after Migrant Boat Capsizes off Bahamas*, Wash. Post (July 25, 2022), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/07/25/miami-boat-capsizes-bahamas-haiti-migrant/>.

⁵ World Report 2022: Rights Trends in Haiti, Human Rights Watch (2022), <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/haiti#:~:text=Over%20a%20third%20of%20the,suffer%20moderate%20to%20severe%20malnutrition>.

⁶ Meetings Coverage and Press Releases, *Haiti’s Crises at New Levels of Desperation, Top Officials Warn Security Council, Urging Critical Assistance for National Law Enforcement, Humanitarian Aid, United Nations* (Sept. 26, 2020), <https://press.un.org/en/2022/sc15037.doc.htm>.

⁷ Haiti: UN Sounds Alarm over Worsening Gang Violence across Port-Au-Prince, UN News (July 16, 2022), <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/07/1122662>.

⁸ World Report 2022: Rights Trends in Haiti, Human Rights Watch (2022), <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/haiti#:~:text=Over%20a%20third%20of%20the,suffer%20moderate%20to%20severe%20malnutrition>.

⁹ Haiti: Urgently Address Cholera Outbreak, Human Rights Watch (Oct. 18, 2022), <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/10/18/haiti-urgently-address-cholera-outbreak>

¹⁰ *Id.*



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



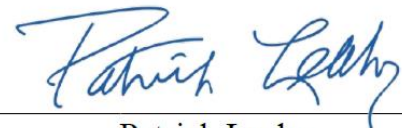
Tina Smith
United States Senator



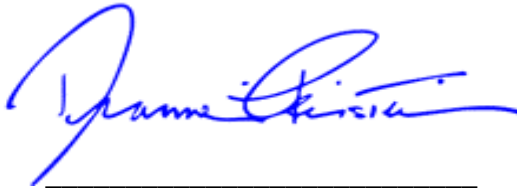
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



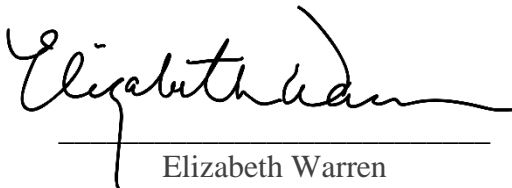
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United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
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Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



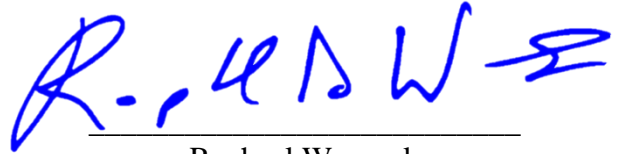
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Tim Kaine
United States Senator



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United States Senator