

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



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November 21, 2017

Hon. Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing you to express my extreme displeasure and dismay at the decision to terminate temporary protected status (TPS) for Haitian refugees. As a member of the New York State Senate, I represent the village of Spring Valley, home to the second largest Haitian community by population percentage in the United States. I cannot begin to describe how deeply this unjust and baseless action hurts our community.

In March of this year, I wrote you to call on the Department of Homeland Security to extend the TPS of Haitian refugees in the United States. I was relieved in May when then-Secretary John Kelly extended the TPS program through January 2018. This stunning reversal is nothing less than a betrayal of 59,000 Haitians living in the United States because of the TPS program.

I call on you and Acting Secretary Elaine Duke to immediately reverse this decision. We would be sending 59,000 people back into a dire situation. Our friends and neighbors in Haiti have been suffering for many years due to four tropical storms in 2008, a terribly devastating earthquake in 2010, and a hurricane in 2016. Additionally, a recent cholera outbreak, combined with political unrest and socioeconomic instability shows that Haitians need time to stabilize their country. To send thousands back into these circumstances is, quite frankly, cruel.

We are a nation of immigrants. A nation made greater by the determination and grit of those who crossed vast oceans and weathered stormy seas in search of a better life. That immigrant spirit is woven into the very fabric of America. To tug at its threads, is to risk its undoing. In closing, I remind you of the immortal words, emblazoned on the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." Mr. President, I implore you, do not let these words – this solemn promise to a weary world – ring hollow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Carlucci".

Senator David Carlucci
38th Senate District

CC: Elaine Duke
Acting Secretary
United States Department of Homeland Security