

HM 263

2018

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the President of the United States,
3 urging the President to extend Haiti's Temporary
4 Protected Status designation for at least 18 months
5 beyond its current January 22, 2018, expiration date.
6

7 WHEREAS, On September 16, 2016, President Donald Trump told
8 Haitian Americans he would be their "greatest champion,"
9 praising their "perseverance, entrepreneurship, creativity,
10 [and] faith" and saying "all the things that make America good
11 and strong can be found right here, amazing people, so I come
12 here today to say that the Haitian American community deserves
13 our gratitude and our respect, and I want you to know you have
14 my respect," and

15 WHEREAS, President Trump continued, "The 2010 Haitian
16 earthquake unleashed a horrible and catastrophic devastation:
17 over 300,000 dead . . . millions displaced or injured, homes,
18 businesses, schools reduced to rubble; amid the suffering Haiti
19 showed the world so much heart and so much incredible
20 resilience, but the truth is Haiti is still suffering very
21 badly. The Haitian people deserve better, so . . . I will give
22 them better," and

23 WHEREAS, on May 22, 2017, the Department of Homeland
24 Security extended Haiti's Temporary Protected Status designation

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25 | for 6 months, making its current expiration date January 22,
26 | 2018, and

27 | WHEREAS, Haiti's government is requesting a Temporary
28 | Protected Status extension of at least 18 months to enable it to
29 | deal with the overwhelming challenges facing the nation, and

30 | WHEREAS, by November 23, 2017, the Department of Homeland
31 | Security must decide whether to terminate or extend Haiti's
32 | Temporary Protected Status designation, and

33 | WHEREAS, the Haitian-American community is concerned that
34 | without an 18-month Temporary Protected Status extension, Haiti
35 | will be unable to recover from recent extraordinary calamities,
36 | including the 2010 earthquake where nearly 40,000 earthquake
37 | victims still remain in internally displaced persons camps and
38 | 200,000 more remain in a camp that has evolved into a settlement
39 | named Canaan; the unchecked cholera epidemic introduced by
40 | United Nations peacekeepers in October 2010 which has killed at
41 | least 10,000 and sickened over 800,000, and for which the United
42 | Nations to date has raised only \$10 million of its targeted \$400
43 | million to address; and Hurricane Matthew, a category 4
44 | hurricane with 145-miles-per-hour winds that struck Haiti's
45 | southern peninsula, one of the nation's key breadbaskets, in
46 | 2016, greatly exacerbating the nation's food crisis after a 3-
47 | year drought in Haiti's rice-growing Artibonite and killing
48 | 1,000 people, leaving hundreds of thousands more without safe
49 | water or food, destroying crops, livestock, and infrastructure,

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50 | exacerbating the cholera epidemic, and causing Haiti's
51 | government to declare a state of emergency, and

52 | WHEREAS, in a detailed December 2016 assessment, the United
53 | States Citizenship and Immigration Services concluded that the
54 | conditions in Haiti still warranted its Temporary Protected
55 | Status designation, making then-Secretary of State John Kerry
56 | recommend an extension, and

57 | WHEREAS, however, under President Trump, the United States
58 | Citizenship and Immigration Services recommended not extending
59 | Haiti's Temporary Protected Status designation, and its new head
60 | of policy and strategy urged staff to find evidence of Haitian
61 | "criminality" to justify ending its designation, and

62 | WHEREAS, since January 12, 2011, 58,000 Haitians with
63 | Temporary Protected Status have been residing in the United
64 | States and have strong community ties, including United States-
65 | born children who should not have to choose between their
66 | parents and their birthright as Americans, and

67 | WHEREAS, these 58,000 Haitians regularly send remittances,
68 | including \$1.3 billion in 2015, that help sustain approximately
69 | 320,000 to 500,000 of their relatives in Haiti, making them
70 | Haiti's chief source of foreign assistance, and

71 | WHEREAS, Haiti's government will be unable to safely
72 | receive or assimilate the 58,000 Haitians with Temporary
73 | Protected Status or replace their remittances, rendering such
74 | deportations both unsafe and destabilizing, and

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75 WHEREAS, Haiti's recovery and stability are in the national
76 security interest of the United States, and

77 WHEREAS, therefore, the extension of Haiti's Temporary
78 Protected Status designation for at least 18 months is in the
79 national security interests of the United States and Haiti, and

80 WHEREAS, there is bipartisan support for a generous
81 extension of Haiti's Temporary Protected Status designation,
82 NOW, THEREFORE,

83

84 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

85

86 That President of the United States Donald Trump and Acting
87 Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Elaine Duke are
88 respectfully urged to extend Haiti's Temporary Protected Status
89 for at least 18 months beyond its current January 22, 2018,
90 expiration date.

91 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
92 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
93 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
94 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
95 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.