

**ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

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**Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0923**

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

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October 4, 2012

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

In a letter dated July 10, 2012, I urged you to create a Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program that would allow Haitians with approved family based visa petitions to come to the United States while they await their visas. Since that time, your administration has renewed Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitians, yet has failed to provide a response explaining the lack of a family reunification program.

As the extension of TPS shows, Haiti is far from recovering from the January 2010 earthquake and remains plagued by a stagnant economy, crumbling infrastructure, and poor health conditions. Yet, there are approximately 112,000 Haitians with approved visa petitions who are forced to languish in Haiti for no other reason than arbitrary per country limits. These individuals have already had their petitions approved and have family willing and able to support them upon their arrival in the United States. In addition to simply being able to leave the island, they would also be able to work and send back remittances to further aid in Haiti's recovery.

Such a program is not unprecedented, as Cubans currently benefit from a similar program created in 2007 by the Department of Homeland Security and renewed by your administration. Additionally, it requires no congressional action and stands to improve the lives of thousands of Haitians. It is simply the right thing to do.

Once again, I urge you to direct your administration to create a Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program so that the thousands of Haitians who have already been approved can join their families in the United States and work to actively assist in Haiti's recovery. Thank you for your consideration of this matter, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alcee L. Hastings". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

Cc:

The Honorable Janet Napolitano  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

The Honorable Hillary Clinton  
Secretary, U.S. Department of State