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NHAEON

NATIONAL HAITIAN AMERICAN ELECTED OFFICIALS NETWORK

To: U.S. Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ)
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Date: December 7, 2023

Subject: Urgent Appeal for Support of Biden's Humanitarian Parole for Haitians

Dear Senator Booker,

The National Haitian American Elected Officials Network (NHAEON) writes to express our deep concern regarding the current humanitarian crisis that many of our fellow Haitians currently face in Haiti and to seek your steadfast support for the Biden Administration's Humanitarian Parole Program.

In January 2023, the Biden Administration expanded the Humanitarian Parole Program to include Haitians, bringing 30,000 applicants monthly from Venezuela, Cuba, Haiti, and Nicaragua. Regrettably, the dire humanitarian crisis in Haiti due to political instability and gang violence has led to overwhelming demand, with over 100,000 Haitians have applied for this humanitarian program because they are desperate to escape constant violence inflicted by criminal gangs.

The prevalent corruption in Haiti has taken a toll on its economy, leading to an inflation rate exceeding 20% for three consecutive years. Shockingly, more than half of Haiti's population suffers from hunger, including more than 100,000 children experiencing severe malnutrition. Many capable and vulnerable Haitians seek refuge abroad, attempting to escape political persecution and economic despair.

Haiti's humanitarian crisis and security concerns forced the State Department to close the U.S. American Embassy in Port-au-Prince. On December 6, 2023, the U.S. Embassy in Haiti sent a security alert reporting heavy gunfire in many areas in Port-au-

Prince. It emphasized the problematic conditions many Haitians are currently enduring due to constant gang violence.

We are disturbed by recent reports indicating that Senator Thom Tillis has been pushing for provisions that could adversely affect legal immigration under the guise of enhancing border security. Senator Tillis has insisted that not including measures to reduce legal immigration could undermine the essence of securing the border. He has explicitly stated that without specific language on restricting the humanitarian parole, any compromise would not meet the criteria for "border security," and Republicans would oppose aid to Ukraine. However, many studies suggest that increasing lawful pathways will enhance border security. After all, many citizens of other countries would not jeopardize their lives to seek refuge in the U.S. while knowing that there is a lawful pathway to enter this country.

NHAEON urgently appeals to you, Senator Booker, to stand firm against Senator Tillis's ill-advised proposals that may obstruct the lawful pathway for many Haitians to escape the dire humanitarian crisis they face in their own country. We implore you to champion the cause of those who seek refuge in the U.S. from violence, hunger, and persecution at the hands of the corrupted political and economic elites of their own countries, especially Haiti. Your support for the Biden Administration's Humanitarian Parole Program is continuously needed to maintain it. At the same time, the U.S. assists Haiti in putting structures in place to organize elections to return to democratic governance. Your advocacy on this matter is vital to the Humanitarian Parole Program and will contribute significantly to addressing the urgent humanitarian issues in Haiti. This program saves the lives of many Haitian brothers and sisters of U.S. Citizens.

We graciously appreciate your continuous support for the Humanitarian Parole Program and look forward to working with you to protect the rights and well-being of the Haitian people. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,



Charnette Frederic, MHA
Chairwoman
NHAEON

About NHAEON:

NHAEON is the largest network of Haitian American Elected & Appointed Officials organization in the US. Our members represent millions of constituents all across the nation. NHAEON members are dedicated to supporting domestic policies, legislation & issues affecting Haitians living in the United States. NHAEON is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, non-partisan organization that Engages Haitian Americans in the political process and amplifies our communities' voices by enhancing Haitians' lives through the advancement of civic engagement, social justice, equality, and equity.