

# PROPOSED

## RESOLUTION NO. 2021-

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, URGING PRESIDENT BIDEN TO REDESIGNATE HAITI FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

(Sponsored by Commissioner Dale V.C. Holness)

WHEREAS, nine days after the January 12, 2010, earthquake, which killed thousands of Haitians and resulted in the near-total collapse of Port au Prince's infrastructure, the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") designated Haiti for Temporary Protected Status ("TPS");

WHEREAS, pursuant to the most recent TPS designation for Haiti, eligible Haitian nationals who were in the United States as of July 23, 2011, are not removable from the United States and can obtain an employment authorization document;

WHEREAS, on November 17, 2017, DHS announced that it would terminate the TPS designation for Haiti on July 22, 2019;

WHEREAS, due to a series of legal challenges, the termination of the TPS designation for Haiti has been enjoined; and, on December 9, 2020, DHS announced that it would extend the validity of TPS-related documentation for beneficiaries under the TPS designation for Haiti through October 4, 2021;

WHEREAS, an issue of great concern and shared value in the Haitian-American community is that the Biden Administration redesignate Haiti for TPS for at least 18 months due to, and until Haiti has recovered from, recent extraordinary calamities, including the 2010 earthquake from which recovery remains incomplete with scores of thousands of quake victims still homeless; the unchecked cholera epidemic introduced

1 by United Nations (“UN”) peacekeepers in October 2010 (Haiti had not had cholera for  
2 at least the prior 100 years), which has killed at least 10,000 and sickened over  
3 800,000; 2016’s Hurricane Matthew—the worst in 52 years—which killed 1,000 people,  
4 left hundreds of thousands without safe water or food, inundated vast areas and towns,  
5 and destroyed crops, livestock, and infrastructure in broad areas; the global  
6 COVID-19 pandemic; recent political unrest, including attacks on civilians; and a spike  
7 in violent crimes;

8 WHEREAS, Haiti’s government has requested the redesignation of TPS for Haiti  
9 for at least 18 months, the maximum period allowed under the law, to enable it to deal  
10 with the overwhelming challenges facing the country due to these calamities;

11 WHEREAS, the 58,000 Haitians who have benefited from the TPS designation  
12 for Haiti have been in the United States since at least July 2011, most for 10 to 15  
13 years, and have community ties including U.S.-born children who should not have to  
14 choose between their parents and their birthright as Americans;

15 WHEREAS, these 58,000 Haitians regularly send remittances that sustain about  
16 250,000 to 500,000 relatives in Haiti, relatives who in 2015 received \$1.3 billion in  
17 remittances, constituting Haiti’s chief source of foreign assistance;

18 WHEREAS, Haiti’s government, while struggling to recover from the recent  
19 catastrophes described above, including the COVID-19 pandemic, food insecurity,  
20 political unrest, and other challenges, will be unable to safely receive or assimilate  
21 58,000 Haitians with TPS or to replace their remittances, which help sustain its  
22 economy, rendering such deportations both unsafe and destabilizing;

23 WHEREAS, over 100,000 Haitians who arrived in the U.S. after July 23, 2011, do  
24 not benefit from the initial TPS designation for Haiti, even though the Haitian

1 government is not capable of safely receiving and assimilating them, and the conditions,  
2 turmoil, and human rights abuses in Haiti match or exceed the gravity of the majority of  
3 the other nations with more recent TPS designations;

4 WHEREAS, deportations of Haitians from the U.S. would increase desperation  
5 and migration, resulting in tragedies at sea and requiring increased U.S. Coast Guard  
6 interdiction resources;

7 WHEREAS, Haiti's recovery and stability are in the national security interest of  
8 the United States, and the redesignation of TPS for Haiti for no less than  
9 18 months is, therefore, in the national security interests of both the United States and  
10 Haiti;

11 WHEREAS, Haiti is a textbook case for TPS and its redesignation, given the  
12 extraordinary events and facts described above;

13 WHEREAS, bipartisan political, editorial, and civil society support for  
14 redesignation of TPS for Haiti is great and has included 100 members of Congress,  
15 major national and Florida editorial boards, Republican Senator Marco Rubio,  
16 Democratic Senator Bob Menendez, religious leaders, and professionals, among many  
17 other national and local organizations and other leaders;

18 WHEREAS, 81% of Haitians who benefit from the TPS designation for Haiti are  
19 actively in the labor force and recent studies show that many of the beneficiaries of TPS  
20 are on the frontlines battling COVID-19, including working in healthcare and food-  
21 related industries like agriculture, warehouse distribution, and grocery stores;

22 WHEREAS, the Center for American Progress estimates that if Salvadoran,  
23 Honduran, and Haitian workers with TPS were removed from the labor force, the United  
24 States would lose \$164 billion in gross domestic product (GDP) over the next decade;

1 and, if TPS holders lost their work authorization, it would result in a \$6.9 billion reduction  
2 to Social Security and Medicare contributions over a decade, as calculated by the  
3 Immigrant Legal Resource Center; and

4 WHEREAS, TPS recipients must pay \$410 in fees each time they reregister,  
5 NOW, THEREFORE,

6  
7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
8 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

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10 Section 1. The Board of County Commissioners of Broward County, Florida  
11 (“Board”), urges President Biden to instruct DHS to redesignate Haiti for TPS for no less  
12 than 18 months.

13 Section 2. The Board urges Secretary of State Antony Blinken to recommend  
14 to President Biden and DHS that conditions in Haiti fully warrant that DHS redesignate  
15 Haiti for TPS for no less than 18 months.

16 Section 3. The Board urges DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas to  
17 redesignate Haiti for TPS for no less than 18 months.

18 Section 4. The Board authorizes transmission of this Resolution to  
19 President Joseph R. Biden, White House Chief of Staff Ron A. Klain, Secretary of State  
20 Antony Blinken, DHS Secretary Alejandro Moyorkas, Acting United States Citizenship  
21 and Immigration Services Director Tracy Renaud, and the members of the  
22 Florida Congressional Delegation.

