Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 23, 2026

Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write to respectfully urge you to exercise your constitutional authority to grant Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) to Haitian nationals currently residing in the United States. This action would be legally sound, consistent with longstanding executive practice, and aligned with the foreign policy and national security interests of the United States.

Mass removals at this juncture would undermine the United States' diplomatic and security investments in Haiti, including U.S. co-authorship and support of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2793 (2024), which authorized the deployment of a Gang Suppression Force (GSF) and established the United Nations Support Office in Haiti (UNSOH).[1] These international mechanisms are designed to counter organized criminal gangs, restore territorial control, and prevent Haiti's instability from escalating into a transnational threat affecting the United States and the broader Western Hemisphere.

For purposes of conducting foreign relations, Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) falls within the President's authority under Article II of the U.S. Constitution, as reflected in consistent executive practice across administrations of both parties.[2] DED does not confer immigration status nor create a pathway to permanent residence; rather, it temporarily defers removal based on foreign policy considerations. Prior administrations have relied on DED for nationals of countries including Liberia, Venezuela, and Hong Kong.[3]

Granting a temporary transition for Haitian under DED program would provide critical time for the GSF/UNSOH mission's current one-year mandate to secure the personnel, funding, and operational capacity required to fulfill its objectives. Appropriate vetting and public-safety safeguards can and should accompany any such designation.

U.S. National Security and Foreign Policy Considerations
Haitian diaspora contribute to approximately $4 billion in annual remittances to Haiti, including an estimated $3.2 billion originating from the United States, providing essential economic support that

[1] S.C. Res. 2793, U.N. Doc. S/RES/2793 (2024), https://documents.un.org.
[2] U.S. Const. art. II; see also Cong. Rsch. Serv., *Deferred Enforced Departure: Overview and Use*, https://crsreports.congress.gov.
[3] Cong. Rsch. Serv., *Executive Authority to Defer Removal of Noncitizens*, https://crsreports.congress.gov

mitigates instability.[4]Haiti currently has approximately 1.4 million internally displaced persons due to gang-related violence, out of a total population of roughly 11.2 million.[5] More than 50 percent of Haiti's population is experiencing acute food insecurity.[6] Criminal gangs are estimated to control 85–90 percent of the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area and continue expanding into the Ouest, Artibonite, and Central departments, encompassing nearly half of Haiti's geographic territory.[7]

A central objective of the GSF/UNSOH mission is to prevent Haiti's insecurity from facilitating transnational threats, including illicit trafficking of arms, ammunition, and narcotics, directly impacting U.S. homeland and regional security. The sudden return of approximately 350,000 individuals would impose extraordinary security, humanitarian, and logistical burdens on Haiti's already overstretched institutions, jeopardizing the success of an international mission supported by the United States.

Advancing a Safer, Stronger, and More Prosperous America
Granting DED would support regional stability by allowing continued remittance flows during a critical stabilization period; increase the likelihood of success of the GSF/UNSOH mission and protect U.S. diplomatic investments; and reduce the risk of Haiti becoming a failed state at the doorstep of the United States, thereby avoiding significantly greater future expenditures of U.S. military and humanitarian resources.

Mr. President, the circumstances in Haiti are exceptional and warrant a calibrated, lawful, and strategic response. As your administration works with international partners to restore security, strengthen governance, and establish conditions for free and fair elections, Deferred Enforced Departure remains a temporary, discretionary, and well-established foreign policy tool that can help ensure U.S. objectives are not undermined at this critical juncture.

We respectfully urge you to authorize Deferred Enforced Departure for Haitian nationals in order to preserve regional stability and advance the national interests of the United States.

We appreciate your consideration and stand ready to engage further with your administration.

Sincerely,

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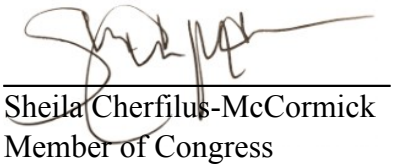
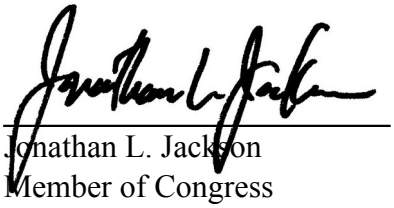
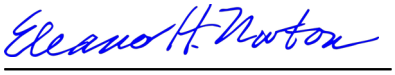
[4] World Bank, *Migration and Development Brief: Remittance Flows to Haiti*, https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/migrationremittancesdiasporaissues.
[5] U.N. Off. for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), *Haiti: Humanitarian Needs Overview*, https://www.unocha.org.
[6] Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), *Haiti Acute Food Insecurity Analysis*, https://www.ipcinfo.org.
[7] Rep. of the Panel of Experts on Haiti, transmitted by Letter from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council, https://www.un.org/securitycouncil.



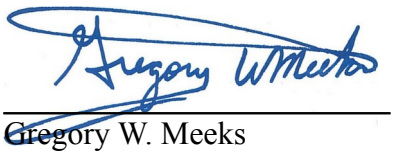
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



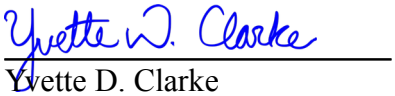
Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



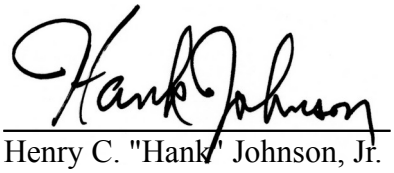
Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



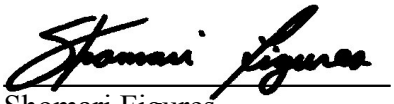
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



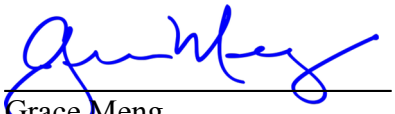
Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Shomari Figures
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



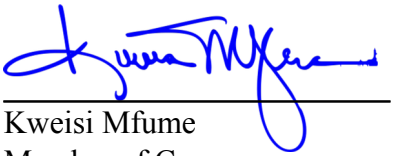
Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress