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The African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey (AACCNJ) and New York Black Business Alliance (NYSBBA) Urge Thoughtful Approach to Immigration Policy Affecting Haitian Healthcare Workforce

(TRENTON, NJ – June 26, 2026) – The African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey (AACCNJ) and the New York State Black Business Alliance (NYSBBA) are calling on federal policymakers to carefully consider the significant impact that recent immigration policy changes affecting Haitian nationals could have on healthcare delivery, workforce stability, and economic growth throughout New York and New Jersey.

The Chambers recognize the federal government's responsibility to establish and enforce immigration policy. At the same time, sound public policy should account for the practical implications such decisions have on employers, patients, and communities that depend upon a stable workforce.

Across New York and New Jersey, Haitian professionals serve every day as physicians, registered nurses, certified nursing assistants, home health aides, respiratory therapists, laboratory professionals, behavioral health providers, and entrepreneurs. Their dedication has strengthened hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, community health organizations, and long-term care facilities throughout the region.

Recent reports estimate that approximately 200,000 Haitian Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders are employed throughout the United States, contributing an estimated $5.9 billion annually to the U.S. economy while paying more than $1.5 billion in federal, state, and local taxes. Within the healthcare sector alone, approximately 13,000 Haitian TPS holders serve as certified nursing assistants, providing care to an estimated 65,000 patients every day.

Healthcare providers across New York and New Jersey continue to experience persistent workforce shortages. Hospitals, home healthcare agencies, behavioral health providers, and long-term care facilities rely upon skilled healthcare professionals to meet growing patient demand. Any significant disruption to this workforce has the potential to increase staffing shortages, delay access to care, and place additional strain on healthcare systems already operating under considerable pressure.

"Our healthcare system depends upon dedicated professionals who care for our families every day," said John E. Harmon, Sr., Founder, President and CEO of the African American Chamber of

Commerce of New Jersey. “Haitian healthcare professionals have become an integral part of that workforce. As immigration policies evolve, we encourage policymakers to pursue solutions that preserve continuity of patient care while providing employers and healthcare institutions with the certainty necessary to continue serving their communities. We applaud Congressman Lawler's leadership on this critical issue."

New York is home to one of the nation’s largest Haitian populations, with more than 125,000 Haitian residents, many of whom have established businesses, entered professional careers, and invested in neighborhoods throughout the region. Their contributions extend well beyond healthcare, strengthening local economies through entrepreneurship, job creation, and community leadership.

The Chambers encourage policymakers to consider several guiding principles as implementation of immigration policy moves forward:

- Protect continuity of patient care.
- Minimize disruption to the healthcare workforce.
- Recognize the economic contributions of Haitian-owned businesses and professionals.
- Provide employers with clear guidance and reasonable implementation timelines.
- Foster collaboration among government, healthcare institutions, employers, and community organizations to address workforce challenges.

“The strength of our healthcare system and the strength of our economy are inseparable,” Harmon added. “Business leaders, healthcare providers, and policymakers share a common responsibility to ensure that our communities continue to have access to quality healthcare while maintaining a competitive workforce that supports long-term economic growth.”

The African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey and the New York State Black Business Alliance remain committed to working collaboratively with elected officials, healthcare systems, employers, and community partners to advance practical, balanced solutions that strengthen healthcare access, support economic opportunity, and promote a thriving regional workforce.

About The African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey

The AACCNJ performs an essential role in the economic viability of New Jersey. While providing a platform for New Jersey’s African American business leaders to speak with a collective voice, the AACCNJ advocates and promotes economic diversity fostering a climate of business growth through major initiatives centering on education and public policy. The Chamber serves as a proactive advocacy group with a 501(c) 3 tax exemption, which is shared by the National Black Chamber of Commerce.

About The New York State Black Business Alliance

The NYSBBA is building a statewide network connecting entrepreneurs, executives, municipalities, and corporate partners to advance Black business growth and create greater economic opportunity throughout New York.