



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

1 Centre Street, 19th floor, New York, NY 10007  
(212) 669-8300 p (212) 669-4306 f  
431 West 125th Street, New York, NY 10027  
(212) 531-1609 p (212) 531-4615 f  
[www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov](http://www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov)

**Gale A. Brewer, Borough President**

May 17, 2017

Secretary John F. Kelly  
U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Kelly,

I write to urge you to extend Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for the many Haitian nationals living in the United States for at least 18 additional months.

I am Borough President of Manhattan, representing the people and businesses at the heart of New York City. Our city is proud to host 20,000 of the roughly 50,000 Haitian citizens living in the United States under the TPS program.

The Haitians living and working in Manhattan and the greater New York metropolitan area are a vital part of our communities and our economy. Allowing TPS to expire this year will have a negative impact on our city, abruptly displacing 20,000 people, many of whom cannot be easily repatriated because of conditions in Haiti.

I join Haitian-American community leaders and the Haitian government in expressing grave concern that the Republic of Haiti is not in a position to immediately reintegrate so many of its citizens into its own economy. Haiti was buffeted by major hurricanes both before and after the 2010 earthquake that precipitated the granting of TPS for Haitians, and the country's economy, its agricultural sector, and its food delivery systems all remain severely compromised. Given the timing of Hurricane Matthew this past year, which wrought widespread destruction, ending TPS at this time would be contrary to common sense and contrary to the interests of both our nations. This is only exacerbated by the scheduled wind-down of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti. While the mission itself has been flawed and controversial, the fact remains that ending TPS and forcing the repatriation of such a large number of Haitian nationals just as UN peacekeepers withdraw from the country is a recipe for greater instability.

Finally, I am deeply concerned by reports that the Department is seeking data on crime rates among Haitians covered by TPS status. This program's function is to help people from countries afflicted with war or natural disasters. Moreover, persons applying for TPS are vetted: potential recipients of TPS are already screened and deemed ineligible if they do not clear criminal background and security-related standards set in the immigration law, and any recipient of TPS loses their eligibility immediately upon conviction for a felony or any two misdemeanors in the United States. Therefore, use of aggregate criminal statistics to justify disqualifying an entire population from the TPS program would have no obvious rationale other than callousness and xenophobia.

At a time when common sense is increasingly giving way to strict ideology in our government, I urge you: uphold the interests of the United States. Please do not allow the political charge surrounding immigration to cloud what should be a straightforward decision for the wellbeing of people living within our borders and the stability of one of our closest neighbors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gale A. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "G" and "A".

Gale A. Brewer