

Resolution Number: 4

Submitted by: The Honorable Mayor Martin J. Walsh, City of Boston

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EXTENDING TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS
FOR HAITIANS LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES**

WHEREAS, Haiti has been decimated by a series of devastating events. In 2010, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake killed over 300,000 people and displaced 1.5 million more. 300,000 buildings were damaged or destroyed.

WHEREAS, today, at least 40,000 people are still homeless and living in camps as a result of the earthquake.

WHEREAS, following the earthquake, a cholera outbreak sickened 100,000 individuals and has killed 9,200 people to date.

WHEREAS, less than a year ago, Category 4 Hurricane Matthew struck, further spreading water-borne cholera and leaving 1.25 million Haitians without access to safe drinking water.

WHEREAS, more than 800,000 Haitians are in desperate need of emergency food assistance.

WHEREAS, Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano designated Haiti for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) on January 12, 2010 due to the earthquake, and re-designated it on January 12, 2011, allowing approximately 58,000 eligible Haitian nationals who were already continuously residing in the US since then to have TPS.

WHEREAS, TPS can be extended for a maximum of 18 months, before the Secretary of Homeland Security must make a decision to extend or terminate the designation.

WHEREAS, on May 23, 2017, Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly announced an extension of TPS for Haiti for the minimum period of 6 months and urged Haitian TPS recipients who do not have another immigration status to “prepare for and arrange their departure from the United States—including proactively seeking travel documentation—or to apply for other immigration benefits for which they may be eligible,” signaling that there may not be another extension for Haiti when this extension expires.

WHEREAS, failure to extend TPS for Haiti would have a negative impact on the U.S. and Haitian economies, endangering lives, further destabilizing Haiti, and potentially separating families.

WHEREAS, the Haitian government recently indicated that it is not in a position to accept the approximately 58,000 Haitian TPS holders in the U.S. back into the country because their repatriation would only worsen an already precarious situation. The Haitian Foreign Minister has advised that an extension of TPS would afford the Haitian government much needed time to undertake projects to improve living conditions in the country.

WHEREAS, it is in the U.S. national interest to extend TPS for Haitians. Haitian TPS holders across our country make vital contributions to our economy, including key industries such as

health and elder care. In fact, a recent study from the Immigrant Legal Resource Center showed that Haitian TPS holders contribute \$280 million to the U.S. GDP and \$42 million to Medicare and Social Security annually.

WHEREAS, in addition to major economic contributions, due to the length of the crisis in Haiti, many TPS holders now have U.S. citizen children. Undoubtedly, ending TPS before Haiti is safe would result in the breakup of families in communities across the country, as parents would be unwilling to put their children in harm's way.

WHEREAS, Haitian TPS holders in the U.S. work hard to send money home to family members still in Haiti. Ending TPS would take away this lifeline, needlessly destabilizing a country that is struggling to rebuild.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly to extend Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitians living in the U.S. by an additional 18 months until Haiti is sufficiently stable for their safe return.