Honorable John F. Kelly Secretary Department of Homeland Security 3801 Nebraska Avenue NW Washington, D.C. 20016

RE: Request to Extend Temporary Protected Status for Haiti

Dear Secretary Kelly:

On behalf of the 168 undersigned national, state, and local faith-based organizations, as well as 248 faith leaders from across traditions, we respectfully request that you extend Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitians for 18 months as dangerous conditions continue to persist in Haiti, posing a serious risk to the health and safety of Haitian TPS holders if they were to be returned to the country. To allow TPS for Haiti to expire would mean turning our backs on the vulnerable Haitians whom we pledged to welcome, and would place considerable burdens on the country as it struggles to recover from multiple natural disasters. TPS was created to provide protection to those in the United States when it is unsafe for their return home - precisely the conditions Haiti faces today.

Extending Haitian TPS is in the national interest, as Haitian TPS holders are a selfsufficient and industrious segment of the U.S. economy and are providing invaluable economic support to family members still in Haiti, preventing further destabilization of the country. Allowing Haitian TPS holders to remain safely in the U.S. until Haiti is sufficiently stable honors our closely-held moral, religious, and American values to stand for the human rights and dignity of all people, here and abroad. TPS should be extended. To do otherwise would be inconsistent with our values of hospitality, generosity, and compassion.

Food insecurity, disease, and instability persist in Haiti

The Haitian people have faced a series of cataclysmic events. TPS was first granted to eligible Haitians in the U.S. in 2010, following a 7.0 magnitude earthquake¹ which displaced 1.5 million people and caused catastrophic damage to the country's infrastructure.² 300,000 buildings were leveled in Port-au-Prince alone.³ 60,000 people are still homeless as a result of the earthquake and living in camps seven years later.⁴ United Nations humanitarian efforts following the earthquake introduced cholera – now

¹ Designation of Haiti for Temporary Protected Status [75 FR 3476] [FR 5-10], January 21, 2010, available at

https://www.uscis.gov/ilink/docView/FR/HTML/FR/0-0-0-1/0-0-204297/0-0-0-204369/0-0-0-204372.html

² Haiti Earthquake Fast Facts, CNN, Dec. 28, 2016, available at http://www.cnn.com/2013/12/12/world/haiti-earthquake-fast-facts/ ³ Haiti earthquake victims still homeless, struggling to rebuild six years after disaster, ABC News, Jan. 12, 2016, available at

http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-01-13/haiti-struggles-to-rebuild-6-years-after-earthquake/7085174

⁴ Haiti earthquake victims still homeless, struggling to rebuild six years after disaster, ABC News, Jan. 12, 2016, available at

http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-01-13/haiti-struggles-to-rebuild-6-years-after-earthquake/7085174

the worst cholera epidemic in the world – killing at least 9,200 people and sickening nearly 100,000 others to date.⁵ Thousands of people continue to be sickened by the disease every year⁶, which leads to severe dehydration, blood sugar shock, and organ failure and can kill a person in a matter of hours.⁷

Hurricane Matthew struck Haiti in October 2016, which devastated the country and impeded Haiti's recovery. The category 4 hurricane impacted two million people and resulted in \$2.7 billion in damage, approximately 32 percent of Haiti's GDP.⁸ Tens of thousands of homes and schools were destroyed, as well as agricultural crops and livestock, exacerbating widespread hunger, political and economic instability, and the waterborne cholera epidemic. The storm surge and widespread flooding has left 1.25 million Haitians, including 800,000 children, without access to safe drinking water.⁹ More than 800,000 Haitians were left in dire need of immediate food assistance as a result of the hurricane's destruction.¹⁰

The events of the past seven years in Haiti are unprecedented and the country remains unstable despite substantial efforts and progress made by the Haitian people and international community. Although poverty has plagued Haiti for generations, the temporary and extreme conditions in the country are a direct result of multiple environmental disasters and "the worst cholera outbreak in recent history," as reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.¹¹ The country needs more time to recover before Haitian nationals in the U.S. can safely return.

Extending Haitian TPS until the country is stable is in the U.S. national interest

There are approximately 50,000 Haitian TPS holders living in the U.S., peacefully raising families, and participating in the economy. Haitian TPS holders contribute \$280 million to the U.S. GDP and \$42 million to Social Security and to Medicare each year.¹²

Haitian TPS holders are also making substantial contributions to keeping Haiti as stable as possible as the country rebuilds. According to a February 2016 report, remittances to Haiti exceeded \$2 billion - or 22.7 percent of Haiti's GDP in 2015¹³; \$1.3 billion coming

https://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/19/world/americas/cholera-deaths-in-haiti-could-far-exceed-official-count.html?_r=0

⁶ U.N. Admits Role In Haiti Cholera Outbreak That Has Killed Thousands, NPR News, Aug. 18, 2016, available at

⁹ UNICEF, HAITI Humanitarian Situation Report #10, Oct. 18, 2016, available at

¹¹ Cholera in Haiti, https://www.cdc.gov/cholera/haiti/index.html

⁵ Cholera Deaths in Haiti Could Far Exceed Official Count, NY Times, March 18, 2016, available at

http://www.npr.org/sections/the two-way/2016/08/18/490468640/u-n-admits-role-in-haiti-cholera-outbreak-that-has-killed-thousands

⁷ Cholera, available at http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/cholera/symptoms-causes/dxc-20311185

⁸ U.N. News Centre, UN calls for support to recovery plan as Haiti loses \$2.7 billion in Hurricane Matthew, March 7, 2017, available at http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56294#.WNsqwZArLrd

www.unicef.org/appeals/files/UNICEF_Haiti_Humanitarian_SitRep_on_Hurricane_Matthew_No.10_____20_October_2016.pdf ¹⁰ Food Security of 800,000 Haitians seriously threatened after passage of Hurricane Matthew, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, Oct. 26, 2016, available at http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/448035/icode/

¹² Amanda Baran, Jose Magana-Salgado and Tom K. Wong, *Economic Contributions by Salvadoran, Honduran, and Haitian TPS Holders, Immigrant Legal Resource Center Policy Report*, April 2017, *available at* https://www.ilrc.org/report-tps-economic-cost

¹³ Manuel Orozco, Laura Porras, and Julia Yansura, The Continued Growth of Family Remittances to Latin America and the Caribbean

from the U.S.¹⁴ Removing this vital lifeline would likely result in an increase in asylum seekers from Haiti, already on the upswing.¹⁵

Ending TPS while the country is so unsafe would cost American taxpayers, as it is likely the U.S. will be forced to resort to deporting many TPS holders to remove them from the country, at a cost of \$10,070 per person.¹⁶ Terminating TPS would also result in a loss of \$2.8 billion in GDP and \$428 million in Social Security and Medicare contributions over a decade.¹⁷ Finally, Haiti's current country conditions would force Haitian parents with U.S. citizen children to make the impossible decision to leave their children behind, ripping apart families and needlessly scarring a generation of Haitian Americans.

Our collective moral, religious, and American values call for extending Haitian TPS

Extending TPS for Haitians is a compassionate, just, and pragmatic choice for both Americans and Haitians. Giving Haiti more time to rebuild and recover from the extraordinary events of the past seven years will protect the lives of vulnerable people and mitigate strains on the U.S. economy and immigration system. DHS should be responding to this humanitarian crisis by upholding our promises to the Haitian people and by allowing Haitians to seek safety here in the United States. As members of faithbased organizations across the country, we urge you to join us in standing shoulder-toshoulder with our Haitian brothers and sisters in need.

Sincerely,

Faith-based Organizations

1199 SEIU Ameinu (Our People) American Friends Service Committee American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) American Jewish Committee (AJC) AMSSND JPIC Office Anti-Defamation League Bread for the World

¹⁴ Migration Policy Institute, *Remittance Flows Worldwide in 2015*, August 31, 2016, *available at* http://www.pewglobal.org/interactives/remittance-map/

in 2015, Inter-American Dialogue, February 2016, at 4, available at file:///home/chronos/u-

bf647dd50f9b3fb8eb3375036ebe074e7d58f6a0/Downloads/2015-Remittances-to-LAC-2122016.pdf

¹⁵ Sandra Dibble, *Tijuana shelters cope with spike in foreign migrants*, The San Diego Union Tribune, June 11, 2016, *available at* http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/border-baja-california/sdut-asylum-seekers-flood-tijuana-shelters-2016jun11-story.html

¹⁶ Amanda Baran, Jose Magana-Salgado and Tom K. Wong, *Economic Contributions by Salvadoran, Honduran, and Haitian TPS Holders, Immigrant Legal Resource Center Policy Report*, April 2017, *available at* https://www.ilrc.org/report-tps-economic-cost ¹⁷ Amanda Baran, Jose Magana-Salgado and Tom K. Wong, *Economic Contributions by Salvadoran, Honduran, and Haitian TPS Holders, Immigrant Legal Resource Center Policy Report*, April 2017, *available at* https://www.ilrc.org/report-tps-economic-cost

Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Boston Catholic Charities / Diocese of Biloxi Catholic Charities Diocese of Cleveland Catholic Charities Diocese of Monterey Catholic Charities of Fairfield County, CT Catholic Charities of Orange County Catholic Charities of Pueblo Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Baton Rouge Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Gary Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Denver **Catholic Charities Spokane** Catholic Charities, Inc. (Diocese of Wilmington) Catholic Charities, Monroe Ministries, Archdiocese of Miami Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) Catholic Legal Services, Archdiocese of Miami Catholic Medical Mission Board Catholic Migration Services (Brooklyn, NY) Catholic Social Services (Scranton, PA) Catholic Social Services of Philadelphia Centro Romero Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Refugee & Immigration Ministries **Church World Service** Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE) Conference of Major Superiors of Men Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces **Delmar Haitian Church of Nazarene** DFMS Director of the Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity, Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth **Disciples Center for Public Witness Disciples Home Missions Family and Children's Ministries Disciples Justice Action Network Disciples of Christ** Dominican Development Center/DDC Dominican Sisters of Hope - Cincinnati Dover Haitian Church Eben Ezer Baptist Church of Delray Beach Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Esperanza Immigration Legal Services Essex County Community Organization Faith in Public Life Family Support Circle FCC Stillwater, OK Federalsburg first Church of Nazarene Federation des Associations Regionales Haitiennes de la Diaspora (FAREHD) First Unitarian Church Portland OR Franciscan Action Network

Franklin Circle Friends Committee on National Legislation Fundamental Human Rights & Rural Development Association FHRRDA GADH HUMAIN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION Gainesville Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice Georgetown Haitian Gospel Justice Committee, Sisters of the Most Precious Blood, O'Fallon, MO Grace Tabernacle Church Greater New York Labor Religion Coalition Haitian Community Partnership, Inc. HIAS **HIAS** Pennsylvania **Hispanic Apostolate** Hope Partnership Hyattstown Christian Church Ignatian Solidarity Network Immaculate Heart Community Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center Interfaith Welcome Coalition Interfaith Worker Justice InterVarsity Christian Fellowship JALSA - the Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States Jesuit Social Research Institute Jewish Council on Urban Affairs Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester Jewish Labor Committee Jews for Racial and Economic Justice JPIC Committee of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia Justice For Our Neighbors Justice Office of the Sisters of St Joseph of Carondelet, St Paul Province Los Pobres Inc. Lott Carey Baptist Mission Society LUCHA Ministries, Inc. Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service Marianist Province of the U.S. Marianist Social Justice Collaborative Steering Committee Marianists International NGO Mass Interfaith Worker Justice Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office Migration & Refugee Services/Catholic Diocese of Lafayette, LA Milford Church of Nazarene Mount St. Joseph University National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd National Council of Churches NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice New York Annual Conference Board of Church & Society of The United Methodist Church New York Sisters of Charity Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors

NY Sisters of charity Oregon Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Arlington VA PCA Mission in North America Pine Valley Christian Church Presbyterian Church (USA) Rabbinical Assembly Rebirth Inc. **Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association** Reconstructionist Rabbinical College/Jewish Reconstructionist Communities Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Western American Province **Religious Sisters of Charity** Saint Luke Institute Santa Maria Community Services and SC Ministries SC Ministry Foundation Sinai Missionary Baptist Church Sister of the Holy Names US Ontario Leadership Team Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati Sisters of Charity, BVM Sisters of Mercy Sisters of Mercy of the Americas - Institute Justice Team Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur Ohio Province Justice, Peace and Care of Creation Office Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet Los Angeles Society of the Holy Child Jesus, American Province South Florida Interfaith Worker Justice St. Joseph Worker Program, L.A. St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, Longwood St. Pius X Catholic Church Susquehanna University Texas Muslim Women's Foundation, Inc. The Build Haiti Foundation The Episcopal Church The Episcopal Diocese of New York The Interfaith Center of New York The Sisters of Saint Joseph Welcome Center The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society Thrive for Life Prison Project Trinity Church, Wall Street T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights UCC First Congregational Church Unitarian Universalist Mass Action Network Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ) United Methodist Church Uri L'Tzedek World Relief

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Reverend Tuhina Rasche, #decolonizeLutheranism Social Action Leader Genie Ravital, Germantown Jewish Center Rev. Dr. Woodie Rea, The Inter-Faith Chapel, Silver Spring, Maryland Director of Communications and Program Officer Amelia Riedel, SC Ministry Foundation Sister Carol Ries, Sisters of the Holy Names Rabbi Mira Rivera, Beit Midrash NYC Reverend Persida Rivera-Mendez, Ministerio Nueva Creacion Rev. Hal Roark, The Church of the Good Shepherd Pastor Jean Rodney, TABERNACLE OF GRACE CHURCH Rector Marissa Rohrbach, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Meriden Rev Carolyn Roper-Fowlkes, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Peter Rosazza, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Hartford, CT Patricia Roseman, Congregational support ministry, Webster Groves Christian Church Senior Pastor Jonathan Rumburg, First Christian Church Rabbi Stephanie Ruskay, The Jewish Theological Seminary of America Pastor Dean Safe, Union Prairie and Henrytown Lutheran Churches Rev Nathanael Saint-Pierre, St Augustine Of Hippo Episcopal Church Secretary Emmanuel Sanon, Sdarm Executive Director Rev. Peter Sawtell, Eco-Justice Ministries Sister Veronica Schweyen, Maryknoll sisters Bishop John Selders, Amistad Church-Hartford CT Director Lara Shepherd, First Christian Church, Hagerstown Rabbi Linda Shriner-Cahn, Congregation Tehillah The Rev. Canon Charles Simmons, The Episcopal Diocese of New York Rabbi Mia Simring, JFREJ Rev. Daniel Smith, First Church in Cambridge Professor of Christian Ethics John Sniegocki, Xavier University Rev. Dr. Rochelle Stackhouse, Church of the Redeemer UCC New Haven, CT Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Disciples Home Missions, Refugee & Immigration Ministries Ms. Grace P Starbird, OLQP Assisting Priest David Steele, St. Luke's Episcopal Church (Bronx) Vicar Masud Syedullah, St. Paul's & Trinity Parish (Episcopal); Tivoli, NY The Rev. Jennie Talley, St. John's Wilmot Episcopal Church Minister Cheryl L Tatham, North Chevy Chase Christian Church Chair, Social Action Committee Clark Taylor, First Parish Needham UU Choir Leader Lovelie Theus, Pentescostal Haitian Church (Disciples of Christ) Rev. Leslie Thomas, Pastor, Haitian Church of God, Manhattan, New York Facilitator Grace Toapanta, St. Joseph Mission Minister Chefiatou Tokou, Elel Christian Program Rev. Sean Toole, SJ, Church of St. Francis Xavier Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty, Dumbarton United Methodist Church Reverend Roosevelt Toussaint, Word of Life Center Reverend Doctor Eliezer Valentin-Castanon, Trinity United Methodist Church Priest and Director of Justice and Reconciliation Winnie Varghese, Trinity Church Wall Street Faith Leader Laudace Viljean, Haitian Evangelical Baptist Church of Brockton. Parishioner Pat Vinkenes, Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church Pastor St. Clair Ward, Gladtidingsinstitute Reverend Robert Washabaugh, St. Mary Catholic Church JustFaith facilitator James Weber, Bellarmine Chapel

Reverend Patti Welch, Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine Sister of the Precious Blood Sister Mary Wendeln, Sister of the Precious Blood Dayton Rev. Dr. Terrye Williams, Hilton Christian Christian Reverend Todd Williams, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Rev. Dr. R. Joaquin Willis Joaquin Willis, Church of the Open Door UCC Reverend Merrilee Wineinger, Tennessee Conference United Methodist Church MACM Linette Wise, Wadsworth The Rev Richard Witt, Executive Director, Rural & Migrant Ministry Pastor Emerita Kay Woike, Church of the Nativity UCC Pastor Derek Worthington, Trinity Grace Church Pastor Paul Ziese, MacArthur Park Lutheran Church