

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 56

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JAMES J. KENNEDY

District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)

Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI

District 33 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Quijano

SYNOPSIS

Condemns President Trump for administration's decision to terminate Temporary Protected Status designation for Haitian nationals.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** condemning President Donald J.
2 Trump for his administration’s decision to terminate Temporary
3 Protected Status designation for Haitian nationals.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, On January 12, 2010, the Republic of Haiti was
6 devastated by a magnitude 7.0 earthquake and was subsequently
7 struck by aftershocks that measured as magnitude 5.9 and 5.5,
8 respectively; and
9 **WHEREAS**, The government of the Republic of Haiti estimates that
10 300,000 people died as a result of the earthquake; and
11 **WHEREAS**, Economists estimate the total direct economic damage
12 from the earthquake to be higher than that nation’s entire gross
13 domestic product, and may reach as high as \$13.9 billion; and
14 **WHEREAS**, On January 21, 2010, the United States Secretary of
15 Homeland Security granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to
16 Haitian nationals in the United States due to the conditions in
17 Haiti; and
18 **WHEREAS**, Haiti has suffered additional loss of life and damage to
19 essential infrastructure from Hurricanes Matthew and Irma in
20 2016 and 2017, respectively; and
21 **WHEREAS**, There are approximately 75,476 people of Haitian
22 ancestry who reside in the State of New Jersey, who make
23 significant contributions to the cultural and economic diversity
24 of the State, and who have integrated Haitian TPS holders into
25 their families and communities; and
26 **WHEREAS**, Approximately 3,400 Haitian nationals present in this
27 State are TPS holders, and there are 1,100 children in New
28 Jersey who were born in the United States to Haitian TPS
29 holders; and
30 **WHEREAS**, TPS holders are net contributors to the United States
31 and New Jersey economies, and federal law prohibits TPS
32 holders from receiving most forms of federal and state public
33 assistance; and
34 **WHEREAS**, The Haitian community in the United States also
35 provides remittances to families and communities in Haiti that
36 strengthen and support the Haitian economy as it continues to
37 recover from devastating natural disasters, at no cost to United
38 States taxpayers; and
39 **WHEREAS**, The Haitian community in the United States provided
40 remittances to Haiti totaling \$1.43 billion in 2016, equaling over
41 18 percent of Haiti’s entire gross domestic product that year; and
42 **WHEREAS**, The money sent from the United States to the Haiti in
43 2016 totaled 60 percent of all remittances received in Haiti in
44 that year; and
45 **WHEREAS**, At a conference of the United Nations and the
46 Caribbean Community in New York, the United States, the
47 wealthiest nation in the world, pledged a mere \$4.3 million, out

1 of the total \$2 billion pledged, to help rebuild Caribbean nations
2 that were devastated by hurricanes in 2017; and
3 **WHEREAS**, At that same conference, Haiti, the poorest nation in the
4 Western Hemisphere, pledged \$250,000 in a show of solidarity
5 with the broader international community in its efforts to help
6 rebuild Caribbean nations after natural disasters; and
7 **WHEREAS**, As a world and regional leader, the United States has a
8 moral obligation to do more to help rebuild families and
9 communities that were destroyed by natural disasters; and
10 **WHEREAS**, On November 20, 2017, Acting United States Secretary
11 of Homeland Security, Elaine Duke announced her decision to
12 terminate the TPS designation for Haitian nationals despite the
13 requests of the Haitian government to maintain Haiti's TPS
14 designation; and
15 **WHEREAS**, It is in the economic interest and the foreign policy
16 interest of the United States to allow Haitian TPS holders to
17 remain in the United States so that they can continue to provide
18 for their families and communities in Haiti and here in the
19 United States, including those families with children born in the
20 United States to Haitian TPS holders; now, therefore,

21
22 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
23 Jersey:

- 24
25 1. The General Assembly condemns President Donald J. Trump
26 for his administration's decision to terminate the Temporary
27 Protected Status designation for nationals of the Caribbean nation
28 of Haiti, who make innumerable contributions to their families and
29 communities here in the United States and in the Republic of Haiti.
30
31 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
32 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
33 President of the United States, the United States Secretary of
34 Homeland Security, and each member of Congress elected from this
35 State.

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37
38 **STATEMENT**
39

40 This resolution condemns President Donald J. Trump for his
41 administration's decision to terminate the Temporary Protected
42 Status (TPS) designation for nationals of the Caribbean nation of
43 Haiti.

44 The Republic of Haiti is continuing its efforts to recover from
45 multiple natural disasters that have impacted the country since
46 2010, and the country's government has requested that the United
47 States maintain TPS for Haitian nationals. There are approximately
48 3,400 Haitian nationals present in New Jersey under a TPS

1 designation who contribute to their families and communities in
2 New Jersey and in Haiti. The families of those Haitian TPS holders
3 include 1,100 children who were born in the United States. It is in
4 the economic and foreign policy interests of the United States, to
5 allow Haitian TPS holders to remain in the United States so that
6 they can continue to provide for their families and communities in
7 the Republic of Haiti and here in the United States.