



20131478er

A memorial to the United States Secretary of Homeland Security, urging the United States Department of Homeland Security to create the Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program.

WHEREAS, on January 12, 2010, Haiti experienced a 7.0 magnitude earthquake, which killed 250,000 people and left more than 1 million homeless, injured, and with limited access to potable water and food, and

WHEREAS, Haitians residing in the United States, particularly in Florida, were devastated by the news and were concerned for the well-being of family members still residing in Haiti, and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States issued an executive order to grant temporary protected status to eligible citizens of Haiti, and, on May 17, 2011, the United States Secretary of Homeland Security announced the extension of the temporary protected status for eligible Haitians for another 18 months, and

WHEREAS, human rights advocates have called upon the United States Department of Homeland Security to use the Immigration and Nationality Act's humanitarian parole authority to allow Haitians who have approved visas to immigrate to the United States without waiting for extended periods of time, and

WHEREAS, the policy of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services has been that family-based immigration petitioners residing in Haiti must remain in Haiti rather than in the United States while awaiting their visa priority dates to



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become current, and

WHEREAS, there are currently other family reunification parole programs that authorize applicants for immigration to join their families in this country, and the purpose of this memorial is to call for the establishment of a similar program in support of Haitian immigration applicants to join their families in this country due to the circumstances in Haiti, and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program would be to hasten the reunification of families and discourage Haitian citizens from resorting to illegal and dangerous means of migration into the United States, and

WHEREAS, the Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program is supported by the City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the United States Conference of Mayors, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the United States House of Representatives, and six United States Senators, NOW, THEREFORE,

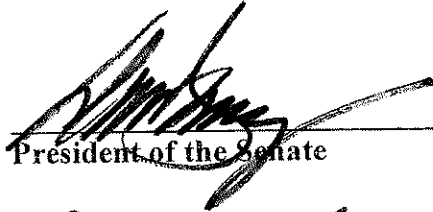
Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

That the United States Secretary of Homeland Security and the United States Department of Homeland Security are urged to create the Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program for the reasons and purposes provided in this memorial.

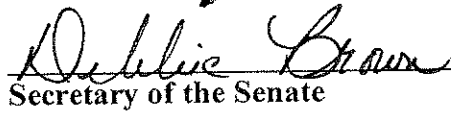
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be dispatched to the President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress, and to the United States Secretary of Homeland Security. _____

SENATE MEMORIAL NO. 1478

Originated in the Senate; was adopted by the Senate on April 24, 2013;
and has been examined and found to be correctly enrolled.

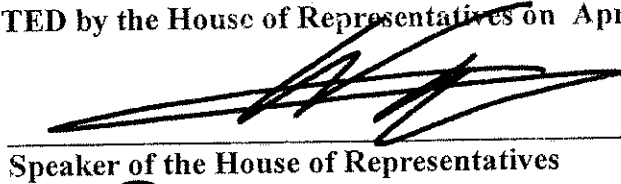


President of the Senate



Secretary of the Senate

ADOPTED by the House of Representatives on April 29, 2013.



Speaker of the House of Representatives



Clerk, House of Representatives

FILED in Office of the Secretary of State:



Secretary of State

By _____

2013 MAY 21 PM 2:42
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

FILED

