

By Senator Siplin

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Senate Memorial

A memorial to Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, urging the 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 over 1 million homeless, injured, and with limited access to potable water and food, and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services approved family-based immigration petitioners to wait in the United States rather than in Haiti for their visa priority dates to become current, and

WHEREAS, there is currently a Cuban Family Reunification

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30 Program in aid of Cuban applicants for immigration to join their
31 families in this country, and the purpose of this memorial is to
32 call for the establishment of a similar program in support of
33 Haitian applicants for immigration to join their families in
34 this country due to the current circumstances in Haiti, and

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

39 WHEREAS, support for the Haitian Family Reunification
40 Parole Program is supported by the City of Philadelphia,
41 Pennsylvania; the Conference of Mayors; the United States House
42 Committee on Foreign Affairs; and six United States Senators,
43 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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47 That Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano and
48 the Department of Homeland Security are urged to create the
49 Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program for the reasons and
50 purposes provided in this memorial.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
52 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
53 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
54 United States House of Representatives, to each member of the
55 Florida delegation to the United States Congress, and to
56 Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano.