

HM 881

2012

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to Secretary of Homeland Security Janet
3 Napolitano, urging the Department of Homeland Security
4 to create the Haitian Family Reunification Parole
5 Program.

6
7 WHEREAS, on January 12, 2010, Haiti experienced a 7.0
8 magnitude earthquake, which killed 250,000 people and left over
9 1 million homeless, injured, and with limited access to potable
10 water and food, and

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

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

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

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

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29 WHEREAS, there is currently a Cuban Family Reunification
 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,

44
 45 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

46
 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.