

By Senator Thompson

12-01175D-13

20131478__

1 Senate Memorial

2 A memorial to the United States Secretary of Homeland
3 Security, urging the United States Department of
4 Homeland Security to create the Haitian Family
5 Reunification Parole Program.
6

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

11 WHEREAS, Haitians residing 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 residing in
14 Haiti, and

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

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

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

12-01175D-13

20131478__

30 become current, and

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

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

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

46
47 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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

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