March 20, 2024

Governor Ron DeSantis  
State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 S. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  

Dear Governor DeSantis:

We write to express our concern about the potential mass migration from Haiti to Florida. To curb the mass migration of Haitians desperately fleeing Haiti, we must address the root cause of the migration.

Life in Haiti is unfathomable. At least 80% of the country’s capital, Port-au-Prince, is under the control of the criminal gangs.¹ Last year alone, there were nearly 5,000 murders, 2,000 kidnappings², and more than 310,000 people who had been internally displaced.³ Gangs have weaponized sexual violence against women and young girls and have threatened to start a civil war.⁴ Approximately 1.4 million Haitians are nearing famine.⁵ Finally, about 4,000 gang members were freed from Haitian jails during a mass jailbreak.⁶ These horrendous conditions are what is driving Haitians to flee their homes.

The crisis in Haiti has direct national security implications for the U.S. and has drawn a strong response from the Biden-Harris Administration. Specifically, the administration supported the establishment of a Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission, under Kenya's leadership, to pave the way for Haitian self-determination and security.⁷ Kenya will be supported by nations

such as Canada, Germany, Spain, France, Jamaica, and Benin. In short, the MSS seeks to address the very insecurity that is causing Haitians to flee Haiti. However, the MSS cannot deploy to Haiti until the U.S. provides the funds it committed to support the mission.

Unfortunately, since October, Republicans in Congress have blocked funding for the MSS. The root cause of the mass migration is the insecurity in Haiti, and the only way to effectively prevent it is to get the MSS on the ground in Haiti.

We therefore urge you to join us in calling on Republicans in Congress to release their months-long hold on funds for the MSS. Every minute we refuse to provide the promised funds, the Haitian people suffer, and the security of Florida is threatened.

We look forward to working with you to help keep the Haitian people safe and Florida secure.

Sincerely,

Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

Darren Soto
Member of Congress

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