



LA SECTION HAÏTIENNE

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Legislators Condemn Termination of Family Reunification Parole Program

Two Haitian-American Democratic legislators have strongly condemned the decision of the Trump administration to terminate the Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program.

In separate interviews with the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC), New York State Assemblywoman Rodneyse Bichotte and New York City Councilwoman Farah Louis, both daughters of Haitian immigrants, expressed

outrage over the administration's decision.

"The recent decision made by the Trump administration to eliminate the Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program is very unsettling to many of the constituents in my district, which consists of Little Haiti Brooklyn, one of the largest Haitian populations in the country," said Bichotte, the representative for the 42nd Assembly District in Brooklyn.

She said the purpose of the program was to be supportive of Haiti and Haitian families "in light of the extreme devastation Haiti has endured in recent years."

"Having the administration make determinations on a case-by-case basis seems

to offer an opportunity to be less transparent and biased. It is hard to feel comfortable with a process executed by people you do not trust and who do not have your best interest at heart."

Louis, who represents the 45th Council District in Brooklyn, said it is "disgraceful and reckless for the so-called leader of the free world to terminate a program that will undermine our sense of love without borders for families from Haiti and the Philippines."

Louis, who was elected to the City Council in May, said, "The Haitian diaspora has fought tirelessly for years to secure the rights and protections that we have today; nothing was ever handed to us. It is in this same spirit that

we will once again unite and fight back against hate, racism and discrimination," she added.

Last Thursday, Caribbean American Democratic Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke also condemned the termination of the program.

Washington announced recently that it was moving towards terminating two categorical parole programs, consistent with what it said is Executive Order (E.O.) 13767, Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements, "and to better ensure that parole is used only on a case-by-case basis, consistent with the law."



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

The Haitian Family Reunification Parole (HFRP) Program

The HFRP Program allows certain eligible U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents to apply for parole for their family members in Haiti. If granted parole, these family members can come to the United States before their immigrant visa priority dates become current. Once in the United States, these individuals may then apply for work authorization while they are waiting to apply for lawful permanent resident status.

NOTE: Do NOT attempt to come to the United States by boat. These trips are potentially life-threatening. If located at sea, you may be returned to Haiti.

Please see the [After We Authorize Parole](#) tab below for information on eligibility for a Green Card, work authorization, and certain benefits, once an HFRP Program beneficiary is paroled into the United States.

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U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

FACT SHEET: Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program

Fact Sheet

Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program

The HFRP Program offers certain beneficiaries of approved family-based immigration petitions (Forms I-130, Petition for Alien Relative), the opportunity to be reunited with family in the United States up to approximately two years before their immigrant visas are expected to become available. Approved beneficiaries will enter the United States as parolees, but will apply for lawful permanent resident (LPR) status once their immigrant visas become available.

Eligibility to Apply

The Department of State's National Visa Center (NVC) will issue invitations to U.S. citizens or LPRs who filed Forms I-130 for Haitian family members that were approved on or before December 18, 2014, and for which immigrant visas are expected to be available approximately within 18 – 30 months from the date of the invitation. Only U.S. petitioners who receive invitations from the NVC will be eligible to apply for the HFRP Program. The NVC will begin issuing invitations to eligible U.S. petitioners beginning in mid-March 2015. Invitations will be issued at least once per year.

U.S. petitioners should make sure that the NVC has their current mailing addresses. Petitioners can update their addresses with the NVC using the Public Inquiry Form found on the Department of State website.

Eligibility for Parole

USCIS will grant parole on a case-by-case basis. Only beneficiaries who are interviewed in Haiti and would qualify for an immigrant visa if an immigrant visa were immediately available, will qualify for parole. Derivative children* who are 21 years of age or older at the time the U.S. petitioner properly files for the HFRP Program will not be eligible for consideration. USCIS will consider for parole any derivative children who are *under 21 years of age* on the date that a qualified petitioner properly files an HFRP Program application with USCIS on the child's behalf.

*A Principal Beneficiary is the relative for whom the petitioner filed the underlying approved Form I-130. Derivative Beneficiaries are the spouses and unmarried children under 21 of that Principal Beneficiary. The NVC Invitation Letter will indicate who is considered to be the Principal Beneficiary and who is considered a Derivative Beneficiary.

Applying to the HFRP Program

To apply to the HFRP Program on behalf of Haitian family members, petitioners who have received an invitation letter from the NVC must file a parole application (Form I-131).

Application for Travel Document), along with the required fee (or fee waiver request), and a Form I-134, Affidavit of Support, for *each* relative they wish to have considered for parole. Petitioners must file for all eligible relatives associated with the same underlying Form I-130 at the same time, meaning that they will need to file any applications for Derivative Beneficiaries at the same time as the application for the Principal Beneficiary. If a petitioner does not apply for the Principal Beneficiary of the Form I-130, USCIS will not consider the associated Derivative Beneficiaries under the HFRP Program.

An application deadline will be provided in the invitation letter from the NVC. Generally, petitioners will be given six (6) months from the date of the invitation to submit their application(s).

Costs

The current fee for filing a Form I-131 is \$360, although a petitioner may request a fee waiver by filing the Form I-912, Request for Fee Waiver. Petitioners and/or beneficiaries will also be required to cover all costs associated with attending an interview in Port-au-Prince, including the completion of a medical examination and travel to the United States.

Beneficiary Interview Required

An interview is required for all program beneficiaries before parole may be authorized. Although a USCIS Service Center may conditionally approve a Form I-131 application, final approval of the application will require an in-person interview with a USCIS officer at the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince. The NVC will schedule HFRP Program interviews and will notify both the petitioner in the United States and the beneficiary in Haiti of the date and time of interview. Petitioners should not attempt to schedule an appointment directly with USCIS or the U.S. Embassy.

If Travel is Approved

USCIS will issue the necessary travel documents to the beneficiary, who must pay for his or her travel to the United States. Once at the port of entry, a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer will inspect the beneficiary, review the documents and, assuming all is in order, parole the beneficiary into the United States. The beneficiary will be issued an electronic Form I-94, *Arrival/Departure Record*, documenting his or her parole into the United States.

Initial Period of Parole

Beneficiaries approved under the HFRP Program will be paroled into the United States for an initial period of three (3) years, giving them time to apply for LPR status once their immigrant visas become available, which is expected to be within two years of being paroled into the United States.

Eligibility for Work Authorization

Parolees will be lawfully present in the United States. Once in the United States, they will be eligible to apply for work authorization by filing the Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, and submitting the appropriate fee, which is currently \$380.

What it Means to be In Parole Status

Parole allows an individual to be lawfully present in the United States and to apply for work authorization. Parole itself does not confer any legal immigration status in the United States. However, HFRP Program beneficiaries paroled into the U.S. are expected to apply for lawful

permanent resident status as soon as their immigrant visas become available—generally within two years of parole into the United States.

Public Benefits Eligibility

Once paroled into the United States, HFRP Program beneficiaries will meet the definition of Cuban/Haitian entrants under section 501(e)(1) of the Refugee Education and Assistance Act of 1980, as amended, and will be “qualified aliens” for the purposes of public benefits eligibility.

Adjustment of Status

Beneficiaries will be expected to apply for adjustment of status as soon as their immigrant visas become available, which is expected to be within two years of their parole into the United States. If visas have not become available at the time their initial parole authorization expires, HFRP Program beneficiaries will have to apply for re-parole if they are to remain lawfully present in the United States.

Last Reviewed/Updated: 03/17/2015

Howard Berger

From: Dorfman, David <David.Dorfman@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2019 10:33 AM
To: Winter, Kristia-Marie
Cc: Howard Berger
Subject: RE: Resolution inquiry for Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Lauderhill. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hi Commissioner Berger and Krisita,

Good to e-meet! Below is the statement our comms director put out last week. Will certainly keep you in the loop as we explore additional means of support.

Best,
David

Rep. Clarke Statement on the Termination of Family-Based Reunification Programs

Washington, D.C. – Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke (NY-09) issued the following statement about family-based reunification programs being terminated last week. These programs include The Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program, modeled after Clarke’s Haitian Emergency Life Protection Act she introduced in 2010, allowed family members of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents who were living in Haiti and had already been approved for a family-based immigrant visa to come to the U.S. during their processing:

“Our immigrant community has been attacked yet again by this xenophobic administration--this time with the termination of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services’ family-reunification parole program for Haitian nationals. I am calling for a retraction of the administration’s cowardly decision to end the Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program because this choice does not reflect the American values that bind us.

In 2010, I proudly introduced the Haitian Emergency Life Protection Act to allow family members of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents who had already been approved for a family-based immigrant visa and were living in Haiti to come to the United States during their processing. This became the model for the Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program that was just terminated by this administration--a program that has been crucial to ensuring Haitian families remain together in safety.

My parents immigrated to America which has given me a deep understanding into the work and sacrifice required to leave one’s country of origin and move to the United States in search of better opportunities. This administration’s revocation of The Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program reverses considerable progress in addressing the immigration backlog facing Haitian-American families while

lessening U.S. support of long-term Haitian development and significantly delays immigrants' pursuit of the American Dream and further extends family separation.”

Media contact:

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cell & Signal: 202-213-6533

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From: Winter, Kristia-Marie <KWinter@council.nyc.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2019 10:08 AM
To: Dorfman, David <David.Dorfman@mail.house.gov>
Cc: 'hberger@lauderhill-fl.gov' <hberger@lauderhill-fl.gov>
Subject: Resolution inquiry for Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program

Good morning David/Howard,

Howard, thank you again for reaching out to our legislative office. David is the legislative director for Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke. He can also be reached at 202-225-6231.

Commissioner Howard Berger of Lauderhill, Florida represents a largely Haitian/Caribbean population and was interested in replicating any resolutions that we might have to support the program that President Trump's plan to end. He can also be reached at (954) 536-4847.

David, could you please advise on whether or not such a resolution is possible? If so, what would be next steps? Thanks!

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RESOLUTION NO. 14R-12-278

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LAUDERHILL, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE HAITIAN FAMILY REUNIFICATION PAROLE PROGRAM (HFRPP) WHICH WILL ALLOW CERTAIN HAITIAN INDIVIDUALS TO BE PERMITTED TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES UP TO TWO YEARS BEFORE THEIR IMMIGRANT VISA PRIORITY DATES BECOME CURRENT TO BE REUNIFIED WITH THEIR FAMILY AND WHICH WILL HELP GROW HAITI'S ECONOMY AND PROMOTE SAFE AND LEGAL MIGRATION; DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT THIS RESOLUTION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE (REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER HOWARD BERGER)

WHEREAS, Congressman Alcee L. Hastings, along with other Representatives and members of Congress, has urged the Department of Homeland Security to create a Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lauderhill hereby wishes to support this Program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAUDERHILL, FLORIDA:

Section 1. That the City Commission of the City of Lauderhill hereby supports the Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program that was created by the Department of Homeland Security to begin in early 2015. This program will permit certain Haitian individuals to come to the United States up to two years before their immigrant visa priority dates become current, will help grow Haiti's economy in the form of remittance payments, and will help promote safe and legal migration from Haiti to the United States.

Section 2. The City Clerk is hereby directed to distribute this Resolution to The City Clerk is directed to distribute this Resolution to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the United States Senate Majority Leader, the Florida Congressional Delegation, the National League of Cities, the Broward League of Cities, the media, and any other interested party.

Section 3. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

DATED this ____ day of _____, 2014.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on first reading this _____ day of _____, 2014.

PRESIDING OFFICER

ATTEST:

HAITI

VIDEOS

Trump to Haitians awaiting green cards: You can't come to the U.S., wait in Haiti

BY JACQUELINE CHARLES

AUGUST 02, 2019 05:53 PM, UPDATED AUGUST 02, 2019 11:22 PM



PHOTOS: Migrants from Haiti get intercepted by the Coast Guard

Local leaders denounce Trump's plans to terminate the Haitian Reunification Program

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Why was Jeffrey Epstein allowed to purchase small women's panties from the Palm Beach jail?

AUGUST 17, 2019 08:32 PM

The day a ticked-off Miami teacher killed 8 people before a witness chased him down

AUGUST 18, 2019 08:52 AM

Days away from moving for a dream job, Miami doctor is killed in fall from cliff on vacation

AUGUST 18, 2019 06:56 PM

UM's offense has entered the 21st century. And players couldn't be more excited

AUGUST 18, 2019 07:15 PM

'A good 100 kills would be nice.' Another Florida man arrested for mass shooting threats

AUGUST 17, 2019 02:44 PM

Immigration activists and community leaders in Miami on June 14, 2019, called for Florida's Republican Senators to support a comprehensive bill that would allow immigrants with temporary status to apply for U.S. citizenship. BY

The Trump administration is ending an Obama-era immigration program that allowed thousands of Haitians who were eligible to receive a green card in two years to wait it out in the United States with relatives.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced Friday that it was ending the Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program, and will now decide whether to allow Haitians to travel to the U.S. to await their lawful permanent resident status on a case-by-case and humanitarian basis.

The decision, USCIS said, is consistent with a 2017 executive order on Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements. The order limits access to asylum, expands the use of detention, enhances enforcement along the U.S.-Mexico border, and ensures that parole into the U.S. is exercised on a case-by-case basis.

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VIDEOS

Accusing Trump of separating Haitian families, activists and lawyers vow to fight

BY JACQUELINE CHARLES

AUGUST 14, 2019 05:20 PM, UPDATED AUGUST 14, 2019 10:22 PM



PHOTOS: Migrants from Haiti get intercepted by the Coast Guard

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AUGUST 18, 2019 07:15 PM

Local leaders gathered at the Family Action Network Movement headquarters to denounce President Trump's plans to terminate the Haitian Reunification Program. BY

Haitian and immigration activists are asking the Trump administration to reconsider its plans to end a family reunification program that expedited entry into the U.S. for Haitians eligible for green cards. If it does not, they are vowing to go to court.

"The Haitian Family Reunification Program is a good program. It helps Haiti. It has helped those who have been waiting to be reunited with their families in the U.S. for years," said Marleine Bastien, executive director and founder of the Family Action Network Movement, previously known as the Haitian Women of Miami. "We will use every tool at our disposal to make sure that this policy remains intact."

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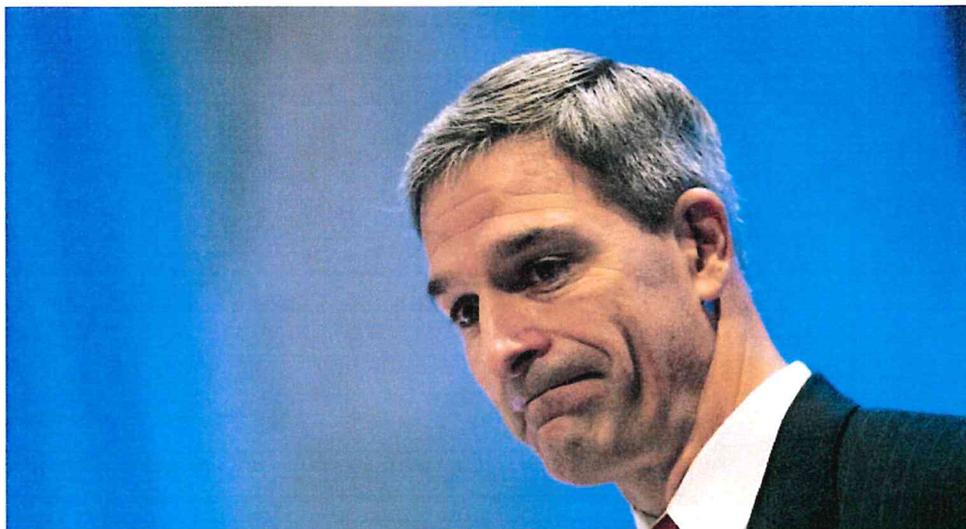
The Trump Administration Is Ending An Immigration Benefit For Filipino Veterans And Haitians

The programs were ended after Trump signed an executive order in January 2017.



Hamed Aleaziz
BuzzFeed News Reporter

Posted on August 2, 2019, at 1:53 p.m. ET





Ken Cuccinelli, acting director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Drew Angerer / Getty Images

The Trump administration is ending a policy that allows Filipino veterans of World War II to bring family members to the United States before their green cards are available, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services said Friday.

The administration is also ending a similar program known as the Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program, USCIS said.

The programs were ended as part of President Donald Trump signing an executive order — officials claim it's to "better ensure that parole is used only on a case-by-case basis, consistent with the law."

“Under these categorical parole programs, individuals have been able to skip the line and bypass the proper channels established by Congress. With the termination of these programs, these individuals will no longer be permitted to wait in the United States for their family-based green card to become available, consistent with the rules that apply to the rest of the world,” said USCIS Acting Director Ken Cuccinelli said in a statement.

People in the US who currently have these protections won't have them terminated right away — they will have the protections until their term expires.

The Filipino program went into effect in June 2016. It allows veterans and their spouses who are US citizens and lawful permanent residents to request parole for certain family members, allowing them to come to the US "before their immigrant visas become available," according to the program's webpage.

Filipino World War II veterans whose service has been recognized by the US Department of Defense, as well as their spouses, children, or siblings can apply.

The Haitian family program allows "certain eligible U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents to apply for parole for their family members in Haiti. If granted parole, these family members can come to the United States before their immigrant visa priority dates become current. Once in the United States, these individuals may then apply for work authorization while they are waiting to apply for lawful permanent resident status," according to the government.

This is a developing story. Check back for updates and follow BuzzFeed News on Twitter.

TOPICS IN THIS ARTICLE

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• LIVE TV 

Trump admin ends family-based reunification programs for Haitians and Filipino World War II vets



By [Geneva Sands](#), CNN

Updated 4:45 PM ET, Fri August 2, 2019



Washington (CNN) — The Trump administration is moving to end family-based reunification programs for Haitians and Filipino World War II veterans.

US Citizenship and Immigration Services announced Friday that it will terminate the Haitian Family Reunification Parole program and the Filipino World War II Veterans Parole program, which were designed to promote family reunification.

"Parole" programs allow certain family members of US citizens or Green Card holders to temporarily enter or remain in the United States, even if they would otherwise not be allowed entry.

The administration argues that these should be done on a "case-by-case" basis, rather than category.

The Filipino World War II program went into effect in 2016, allowing some veterans and their spouses to request certain family members be allowed into the US.

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... month, Sen. Mazie Hirono, who lobbied for the program during the Obama administration, eased eligible veterans last month to apply for the program, which was set to expire in June 2021.

"Facing a decades-long visa backlog, thousands of our aging Filipino World War II Veterans have been unable to reunite with their family members still living in the Philippines," Hirono, a Hawaii Democrat, said in a statement at the time. "But thanks to the Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Program, nearly 300 families have been reunited in America."

The Haitian program was created in 2014 to "promote family unity" and support Haiti's long term reconstruction and development through potential remittances, according to USCIS.

At the start of the program, the immigration agency estimated it would conduct approximately 5,000 Haitian program interviews a year.

The issue of parole has gotten increased attention recently, after reports that the administration was moving to scale back similar benefits that are offered to military families.

"Under these categorical parole programs, individuals have been able to skip the line and bypass the proper channels established by Congress. With the termination of these programs, these individuals will no longer be permitted to wait in the United States for their family-based green card to become available, consistent with the rules that apply to the rest of the world," said USCIS Acting Director Ken Cuccinelli.

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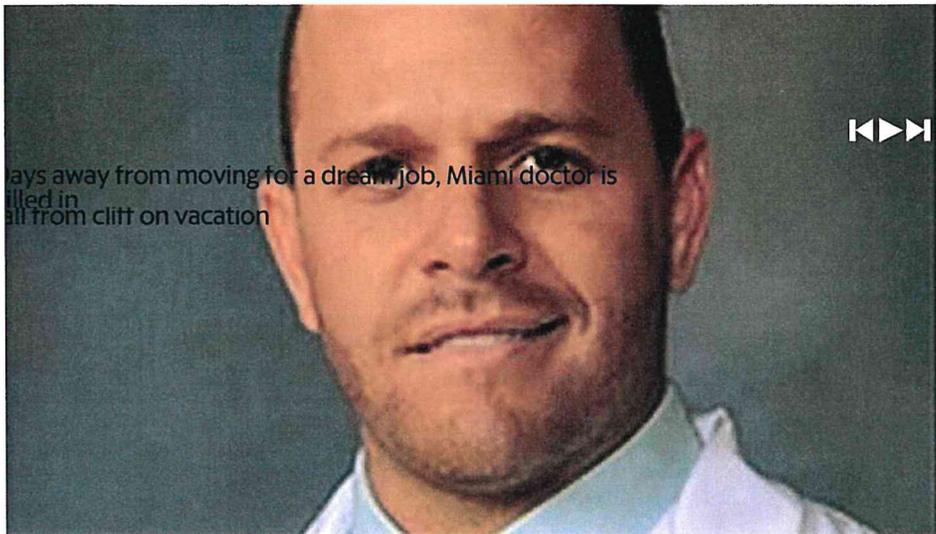
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“I don’t think now is the time for the Trump administration to be rolling back protections for Haitian families, especially when [Haiti](#) is facing probably one of its worst political crises in history,” said Marleine Bastien, head of the Family Action Network Movement who is among those who advocated for the Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program. “They should be doing more to facilitate this process..”

Recalling how Trump had promised to be a [champion](#) of Haitians during his presidential campaign, Bastien said, “This is how he’s showing his support?”

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[TPS advocates see Haiti president’s meeting with Trump as a missed opportunity](#)

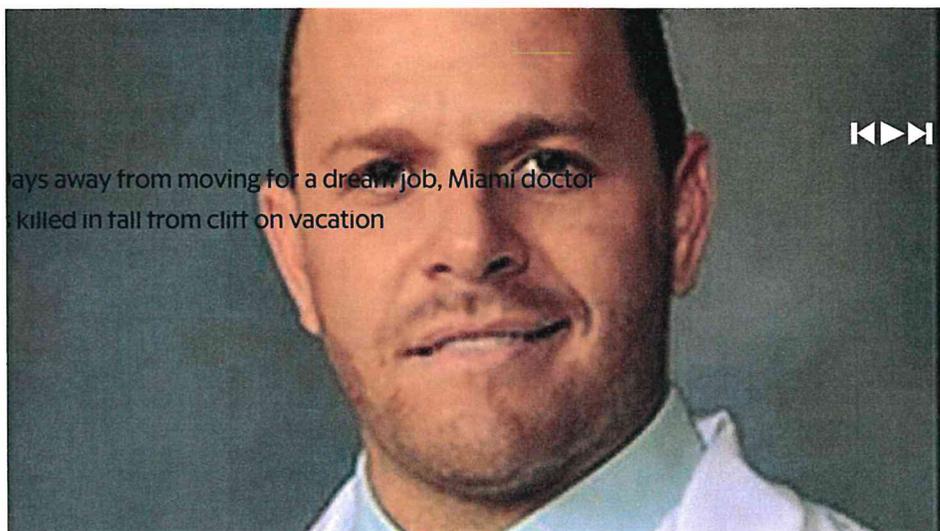
Under the parole program, family members of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents, who were living in Haiti and had already been approved for a family-based immigrant visa, had their reunification in the U.S. fast-tracked. The policy was modeled after a similar program for Cubans, and took effect in 2017. The program was supported by the Obama administration.

According to the program as of June 21.

“Many of the program as and have already been granted status,” said Bastien pending adjudication under Obama.



Santiago said the Cuban program, under which the United States had agreed to grant at least 20,000 annual visas, remains under review. In addition to the Haitian program, USCIS announced it was ending a small program for aging Filipino World War II veterans to reunite with their loved



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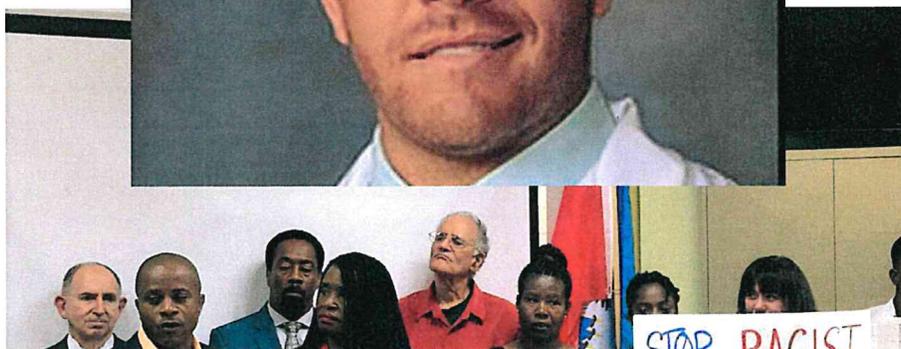
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Earlier this month, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced its intention to end the Haitian Family Reunification Parole program. Modeled after a similar program for Cubans, the program was created in 2014 by the Obama administration to help eligible Haitian family members of U.S. citizens who are already approved for a family-based immigrant visa but who are still living in Haiti.

At the time, advocates and lawmakers on both sides of the aisles argued that many Haitians had been waiting as long as 12 years to join U.S. citizen relatives, and they could better help their homeland rebuild after the 2010 Haiti earthquake if they were paroled into the U.S. while they await their permanent residency status.

So far, 8,302 Haitians have benefited from the program, including Roseline Desruisseaux, who while pleading with President Donald Trump during a Wednesday press conference to not end the program, said she has a sister in Haiti still waiting to be reunited in Miami with their mother, who is a U.S. citizen.

“The program operates by invitation only,” said Steve Forester, the immigration policy coordinator among several community groups, after taking beneficiaries to come here.





South Florida Haitian activists make views known on Trump immigration policy. Front row, from left: Attorney and former North Miami Mayor Andre Pierre, activist Marleine Bastien and Haitian Family Reunification Parole program recipient Roseline Desruisseaux. Back row, from left: Lawyers Ira Kurzban, Clarel Cyriaque and Steve Forester.

Joined by current and former Haitian-American elected officials, Forester said the immigration decision was another example of the Trump administration’s efforts to curb immigration by black and brown immigrants. Other examples cited by advocates include the administration’s rollback of Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, for more than 300,000 immigrants and last year’s decision to end [Haiti’s participation in the guest worker program](#). The federal H-2A and H-2B guest worker program benefited Haitian farmers and laborers seeking to come to the U.S. as temporary, seasonal workers.

“We believe, just like he’s done everything else in an illegal and improper manner, we think they have ended the Haitian parole program in an illegal and improper manner and we intend to bring a lawsuit on that issue,” said immigration attorney Ira Kurzban.

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[HAITI](#)

[New York federal judge blocks Trump administration from ending TPS for Haitians](#)

Kurzban is among several lawyers who are suing the Trump administration over its [TPS decisions](#). Earlier this year, a New York judge, accusing the administration of being motivated by politics and not facts, ruled in favor of Kurzban’s legal team and blocked the U.S. Department of Homeland Security from forcing Haitians to return to Haiti by ending their TPS.

On Wednesday, as Kurzban and others accused the administration of once more trying to separate Haitian families, immigration lawyers for TPS holders were once again in court, this time in San Francisco at the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. There the government was trying to lift a temporary injunction first [issued by a California judge](#), blocking it from forcing immigrants from Haiti, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Sudan, Honduras and Nepal to return home by ending their TPS.

As a result of the court injunction, the Trump administration announced in February that [it would extend TPS](#) for Haiti and three other countries until January 2020.



JACQUELINE CHARLES     [305-376-2616](tel:305-376-2616)

Jacqueline Charles has reported on Haiti and the English-speaking Caribbean for the Miami Herald for over a decade. A Pulitzer Prize finalist for her coverage of the 2010 Haiti earthquake, she was awarded a 2018 Maria Moors Cabot Prize — the most prestigious award for coverage of the Americas.

[Comments](#) 