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THE COUNCIL
OF
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MATHIEU EUGENE
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The Honorable Kirstjen M. Nielsen
Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane, SW
Washington DC 20528

SCANNED/RECEIVED
BY EXEC SEC
2018 JUL 26 AM 7:58

Dear Honorable Secretary Nielsen,

Please accept my sincerest gratitude to the Department of Homeland Security for your ongoing assistance to members of our community who receive Temporary Protected Status for Haiti. As you know, the expiration date of employment authorization documents for recipients of TPS who re-registered in January of 2018 is July 22, 2019. Those who have pending cases received an automatic extension until July 21st 2018, with the expectation that they would receive an approval notice in addition to an EAD card that expires on July 22nd 2019. Unfortunately, many recipients of TPS Haiti have not yet received their EADs, and will now be considered ineligible for employment.

During previous cycles of TPS, the Department of Homeland Security has been gracious enough to expedite the process of providing TPS recipients with the proper EADs, and I am hopeful that the same can be done in this instance.

In order to properly assist recipients of Haiti TPS, I am requesting that the Department of Homeland Security do everything within its power to provide another automatic extension while the applications are still in process, thereby enabling recipients to retain their employment status.

Thank you so very much for your consideration,

Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mathieu Eugene'.

Mathieu Eugene
Council Member
40th District, Brooklyn



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

August 21, 2018

The Honorable Mathieu Eugene
Council Member
40th District, Brooklyn
900 Rogers Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11226

Dear Mr. Eugene:

Thank you for your June 26, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

I appreciate your interest in the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Haiti. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Component principally responsible for advising the Secretary on TPS issues and implementing the program.

After former Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Elaine Duke announced the termination of Haiti's TPS designation and delayed the effective date by 18 months to July 22, 2019, DHS published a notice in the *Federal Register* at 83 FR 2648 announcing that Haitian TPS beneficiaries who wish to maintain their TPS and work authorization through July 22, 2019, should re-register for TPS during the designated 60-day re-registration period (January 18, 2018 through March 19, 2018). The January 18, 2018 Notice also stated that USCIS will issue new employment authorization documents (EAD) with a July 22, 2019 expiration date to eligible Haitian TPS beneficiaries who timely re-register and apply for EADs.

In addition, the notice indicated that in order to avoid a lapse in the ability of TPS beneficiaries to demonstrate their work authorization to employers, USCIS automatically extended the validity of EADs issued under Haiti's TPS extension through July 21, 2018. The automatic extension covered EADs with an expiration date of January 22, 2018, as well as EADs with an expiration date of July 22, 2017, for individuals who applied for a new EAD during the designated 60-day re-registration period (May 24, 2017 through July 24, 2017), but had not yet received their new EADs. This action permitted TPS beneficiaries to continue using these automatically extended EADs through July 21, 2018.

On July 20, 2018, USCIS automatically extended the validity of certain EADs issued under TPS for Haiti through January 17, 2019, to avoid any gaps in work authorization documentation. TPS beneficiaries who applied for a new EAD during one of the last re-registration periods, and have EADs with an expiration date of January 22, 2018, are covered by this extension. Additionally, TPS beneficiaries who applied for a new EAD on or after

The Honorable Mathieu Eugene

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May 24, 2017, and have EADs with an expiration date of July 22, 2017, are also covered by this extension.

USCIS mailed a Notice of Continued Evidence of Work Authorization to TPS Haiti beneficiaries who have pending EAD applications. This notice provides additional evidence of this automatic EAD extension through January 17, 2019.

USCIS is committed to processing EAD applications in the most expedient manner possible. Applicants seeking information about the status of their individual cases can check Case Status Online at <https://egov.uscis.gov/casestatus/landing.do> or call the USCIS National Contact Center at 1-800-375-5283 (TTY 1-800-767-1833).

Additional information on the Secretary's decision and the process for current Haitian TPS beneficiaries to re-register for TPS and renew their work authorization until TPS for Haiti terminates on July 22, 2019, can be found on the USCIS website at: www.uscis.gov/tps.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. Francis Cissna".

L. Francis Cissna
Director