

April 14, 2026

Re: Vote YES on H.R. 1689, as amended by H. Res. 965, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to designate Haiti for temporary protected status.

Dear Representative:



**National Political
Advocacy Department**
915 15th Street, NW, 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20005-2112
[aclu.org](https://www.aclu.org)

Deirdre Schifeling
Chief Political &
Advocacy Officer

Anthony D. Romero
Executive Director

Deborah N. Archer
President

The American Civil Liberties Union urges you to vote Yes on H.R. 1689, as amended by H. Res. 965, which would require the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to designate Haiti for humanitarian immigration protection through April 20, 2029. While this bill does not remedy the grave harms resulting from the administration’s illegal termination of Haitian Temporary Protected Status (TPS), which partners and the ACLU are litigating before the Supreme Court, we urge Congress to pass this emergency response to sound the alarm and seek to provide some immediate relief. **The ACLU will score this vote.**

The bill provides a three-year period of protection and work authorization for our Haitian loved ones and neighbors—many of whom have lived, worked, and raised families in the United States for decades. Approximately 350,000 Haitian nationals with TPS live in the United States, in some cases for decades, where they have raised families, run businesses, and contributed to our communities in myriad ways. They are currently at risk of losing their protected status due to the illegal actions of former DHS Secretary Kristi Noem.

Congress enacted the TPS statute to insulate this country’s humanitarian protection regime from politics. Former Secretary Noem’s decisions terminating TPS for Haiti and other countries—despite ongoing crises—made a mockery of Congress’ intent. If allowed to go into effect, this termination of status would subject tens of thousands of mixed status families—many with U.S. citizen children—to deportation to Haiti, where they would face a humanitarian catastrophe.

As the U.N. Secretary General said last year, Haiti is in a “perfect storm of suffering”, and the combination of mass displacement, natural disasters, widespread violence, and virtually nonexistent humanitarian assistance has created a “life-and-death emergency.”¹ By 2024, Haiti accounted for almost 75%

¹ United Nations News, “‘The people of Haiti are in a perfect storm of suffering,’ warns UN chief,” Aug. 28, 2025, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/08/1165738>.

of global displacement cases, and that number continued to increase, with over 11% of the national population internally displaced by July 2025—half of them minors.²

Congress enacted the TPS statute to create binding rules for when and *how* TPS decisions are made. The DHS Secretary does not have authority to ignore these statutory mandates, and as we fight to remedy Secretary Noem’s unprecedented and illegal actions in the courts, we urge Congress to make clear they must never repeated.

We urge members of Congress to vote for H.R. 1689, demonstrating your commitment to our Haitian community members at risk of deportation to incredible danger and your defense of this country’s humanitarian protection regime. More than 185 members of Congress have separately also voiced their concerns about the illegal termination of TPS in violation of the clear legislative intent of the TPS statute, by joining as amici in defense of Haitian and Syrian TPS holders who are challenging these illegal terminations at the Supreme Court.

For these reasons, the ACLU urges you to vote YES on H.R. 1689. For questions on TPS matters, please contact ACLU senior policy counsel Haddy Gassama (hgassama@aclu.org). Regarding this vote, please contact ACLU Deputy Director of Immigration Policy and Government Affairs Sarah Mehta (smehta1@aclu.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Naureen Shah".

Naureen Shah
Director of Policy and Government Affairs, Immigration

² Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, FROM CRIMINAL GOVERNANCE TO COMMUNITY FRAGMENTATION: ADDRESSING HAITI’S ESCALATING CRISIS (2025), <https://globalinitiative.net/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/From-criminal-governance-to-community-fragmentation-Addressing-Haitis-escalating-crisis-GI-TOC-September-2025.pdf>.