

Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515-3605

November 22, 2024

Prime Minister Alix Didier Fils-Aime Government of Haiti 31, Boulevard Harry Truman Bicentenaire, Port-au-Prince, Haïti

Dear Honorable Prime Minister,

We, the undersigned, wish to congratulate you on your recent appointment as Prime Minister of Haiti. We present our profound support and earnest thoughts for the nation of Haiti and its people during this pivotal period of government transition. We respectfully acknowledge the immense daily challenges confronting the Haitian populace, government officials, and their families resulting from the deepening security crisis.

We are reaching out to you to ask for your consideration and approval for the evacuation of the approximately 70 Haitian children currently in the adoption process with American families, a dozen of whom are being adopted by their Haitian American blood relatives. The U.S. Department of State has communicated its willingness to collaborate with the Haitian government to allow the children to enter the United States. It has been relayed to us that the Haitian government is unable or unwilling to allow for these children to leave Haiti without a full and final adoption and a Haitian passport. Under the Hague Convention for the Protection of Children, the regulations allow for the adoption to be finalized in the sending country or the receiving country confirming that there is a legal pathway for this to be accomplished.

In August 2024, we contacted Madame Arielle Villedrouin, General Director of IBESR, to request her approval to allow Haitian children matched with American families to leave Haiti and complete their adoptions from the safety of their new homes in the U.S. We were pleased to receive her affirmative response. (See enclosure 1) We also contacted Immigration Director Stéphane Vincent LL.M and received his commitment to increasing resources for passport processing. (See enclosure 2) Due to the recent events, we are asking for emergency measures to be taken to get these children to their American families while the adoption is finalized. These American families have a deep love for their Haitian children.

Between March and May 2024, the governments of Haiti, the United States, and the Dominican Republic collaborated to facilitate the expedited departures of 39 adoptees, including 14 granted Humanitarian Parole by the United States. Since then, the situation in Haiti has significantly deteriorated. Last week's

announcement from the FAA restricting U.S. commercial flights to travel to Haiti compounded with the increased gang activity, has complicated the situation. With many government offices closed and unable to process adoption paperwork, worsening travel conditions in Port-au-Prince, the evacuation of the U.S. Embassy in Port au Prince and the growing humanitarian demands on the citizens of Haiti, the orphaned children are arguably the most vulnerable group.

However, even considering the current circumstances, we are confident that the Haitian Government and the U.S. government, will be able to consider extraordinary measures to protect these vulnerable children and unite them with their adoptive families. The gravity of the situation cannot be overstated, as these children find themselves in a precarious position amidst the ongoing security concerns in Haiti. Through your intercession and advocacy, you would not only be helping to safeguard the futures of these children but also honoring the spirit of international cooperation and humanitarian compassion.

We respectfully petition for your involvement in the collaboration between Haitian authorities and the U.S. government to facilitate this evacuation immediately. This request is made with the utmost consideration for the safety and well-being of the Haitian children, allowing them to complete the adoption process from the United States.

We appreciate your prompt attention and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

August Pfluger Member of Congress

Cory Mills Member of Congress

Andrew Ogles Member of Congress

John R. Curtis Member of Congress

Mike Flood Member of Congress