



THE LEGISLATURE  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

September 25, 2021

Joseph R. Biden Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

We are writing to you out of extreme concern for the Haitian migrants attempting to enter the United States near the U.S. Mexico border, where video footage shows Border Patrol whipping their reins at them. This is a clear violation of human rights and domestic and international law. The actions on that video are not an example of how Americans, particularly those in power, should treat their fellow human beings.

The last time we saw white men whipping black people in such a public horrendous fashion was during the Jim Crow era and the subsequent separation and dehumanization that followed. Later, during the first half of the twentieth century, blacks were separated from whites in ghettos to control their growing population in what is considered American Apartheid. Now, not much has changed. The images are very much the same.

We are glad that you have forcefully condemned the behavior of these Border Patrol agents and called for them to be held accountable. However, while these actions were particularly egregious, they took place in the context of a policy that is fundamentally unjust and inhumane, which we urge you to reverse.

It was only a few months ago that the Department of Homeland Security designated Haiti for temporary protected status, a designation given when there are conditions of extreme political upheaval, conflict, or natural disasters. Our government said point blank that Haiti was not a safe place.

Temporary protected status was extended and expanded for Haitians just five weeks ago, but now 14,000 Haitians are being expelled, almost the same number at the Del Rio encampment, citing of Title 42 of the U.S. Code, enacted in a very different context, which provides for removals by the U.S. government of persons who have recently been in a country where a communicable disease was present. COVID-19 continues to present serious health concerns in our own country and around the world, but these people can be vaccinated and quarantined before entering the United States. We note that a federal court has ruled that Title 42 does not authorize the expulsion of migrants; we urge you to pursue a more humane policy rather than an appeal of that ruling.

We are a country of immigrants with many of those of Haitian descent live in the districts we represent. Our Haitian brothers and sisters are desperately trying to flee the poverty, violence and political turmoil in their own country, and deserve to be treated with respect. They are still recovering from an earthquake and the assassination of their President.

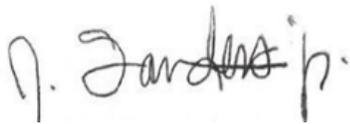
On August 14, 2021, a devastating earthquake struck Haiti, leaving more than 650,000 people in need of emergency humanitarian assistance. This comes as the island nation is still trying to recover from a massive earthquake in 2010 that displaced more than 1.5 million people. Many

left and headed for South and Central America, but now employment opportunities are drying up in Latin America as the pandemic continues and Haitian migrants are seeking asylum in the United States.

These tough and resilient people have been struck down so many times yet they continue to seek a better life for themselves and their families only to be met by whip--wielding Border Patrol agents when they get to the United States. Can you imagine the devastation and humiliation they must have felt?

President Biden, we ask that the Haitian people be treated with the same care and compassion as the Afghan refugees entering our country are receiving. We respectfully request that you revoke the policy being carried out under Title 42 that allows United States Customs and Border Protection to prohibit the entry of these migrants on the grounds that they potentially pose a health risk, despite their dire situation.

Sincerely,



Senator James Sanders Jr.



Senator Robert Jackson



Assemblymember Catalina Cruz



Senator Jabari Brisport



Senator Liz Krueger



Senator Samra G. Brouk



Senator Leroy Comrie



Senator Jeremy A. Cooney



Senator Brad Hoylman



Senator José M. Serrano



Senator Elijah Reichlin-Melnick



Senator Jessica Ramos



Senator Zellnor Myrie



Senator Brian Kavanagh



Senator Luis R. Sepúlveda



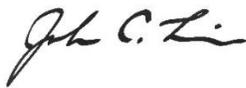
Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn



Senator Julia Salazar



Assemblymember Clyde Vanel



Senator John C. Liu



Assemblymember Phil Steck



Senator Alessandra Biaggi



Assemblymember Patricia Fahy



Senator Rachel May



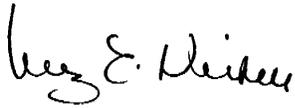
Assemblymember Rebecca A. Seawright



Assemblymember Nathalia Fernandez



Assemblymember Steve Englebright



Assemblymember Inez E. Dickens



Assemblymember Michaelle Solages



Assemblymember Harvey Epstein



Assemblymember Karines Reyes, R.N.



Assemblymember Kimberly Jean-Pierre



Assemblymember Emily Gallagher



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Forrest



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Assemblymember Charles Barron



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Assemblymember Chris Burdick

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Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal



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