

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write to strongly urge you to extend for at least three years Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) for Liberians residing legally in the United States. We ask that you take this action immediately in order to avoid anxiety and uncertainty in our Liberian-American communities.

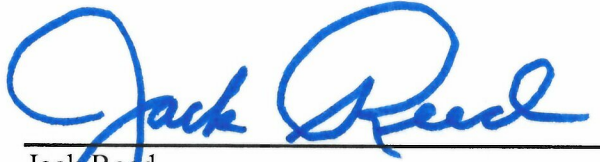
As you know, in 1989, a seven-year civil war broke out in Liberia that would claim the lives of over 200,000 people and displace more than half of the Liberian population. During the conflict, food production halted, and the country's infrastructure and economy were destroyed. A second civil war followed from 1999 to 2003, which ended with the departure from power of former President Charles Taylor, who is currently serving a 50-year prison sentence by the Special Court of Sierra Leone for war crimes. Then in 2014, Liberia's recovering health system faced the challenge of responding to the Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa.

During this long succession of uniquely tragic circumstances, thousands of Liberians who were forced from their homes sought refuge in the United States. Attorney General Thornburgh first granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Liberians present in the United States in 1991 and, since that time, subsequent Administrations have extended TPS and DED for Liberians in recognition of the danger and instability in the region. DED for Liberians is scheduled to expire on March 31, 2018.


The United States must continue to do all that is necessary to assist in the reemergence of Liberia, ensure regional stability, help foster Liberia's continuing post-war recovery, and protect our country's substantial foreign policy assistance and peacekeeping investments in Liberia. With its recent presidential election, Liberia has only just completed its first democratic transfer of power in decades, and there are still serious concerns about the nation's ability to maintain peace and deliver essential services to its population. A flood of Liberians from the United States could overburden the country's limited infrastructure and reverse the advances the nation of Liberia has made. It would also stem the crucial socio-economic investment and assistance that Liberians in our country provide through remittances to their relatives in Liberia. As such, we believe it is beneficial for both countries if this population is permitted to remain in the United States for at least three additional years.

We appreciate your consideration of this request.


Sincerely,




Jack Reed
United States Senator




Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



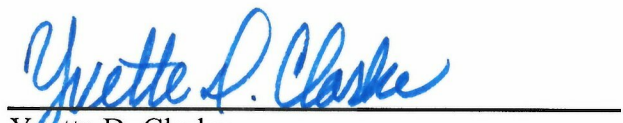
Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



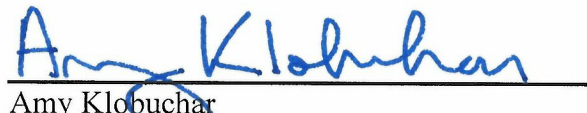
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress




Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator




Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress




Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator




David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



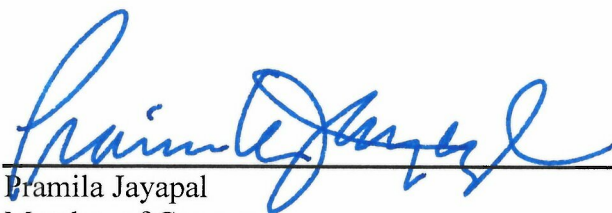
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



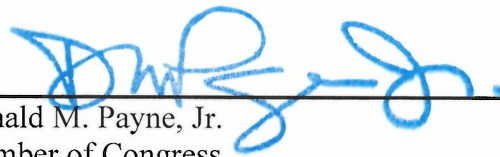
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Erik Paulsen
Member of Congress




Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



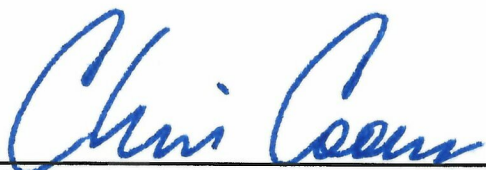
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



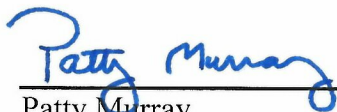
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



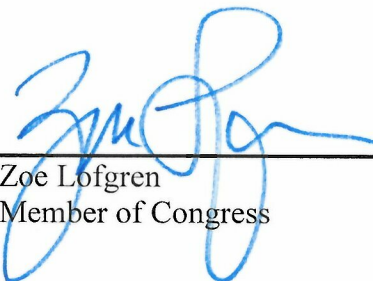
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



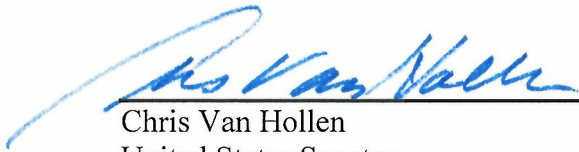
Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress

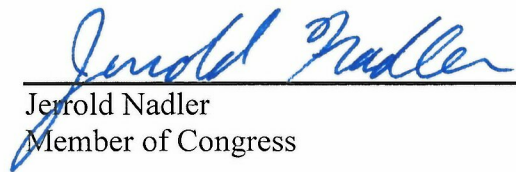


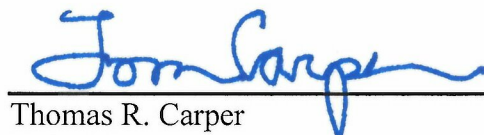
Patty Murray
United States Senator




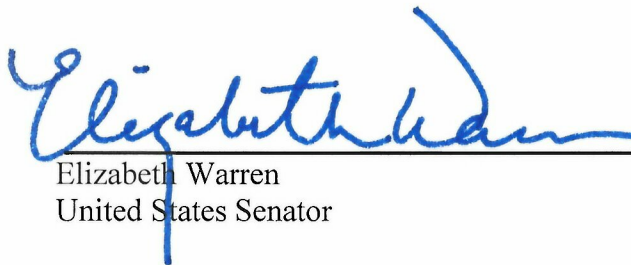
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

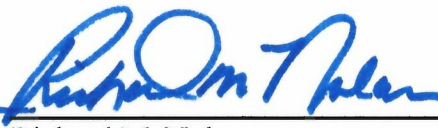

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator


Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress


Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

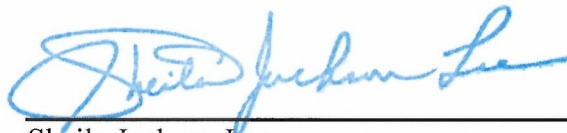

Tim Walz
Member of Congress


Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator


Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress



Ron Wyden
United States Senator


Ro Khanna
Member of Congress


Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

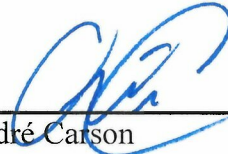

James R. Langevin
Member of Congress


Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress


Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress




Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



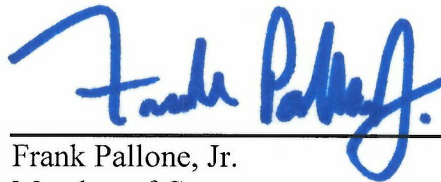
Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



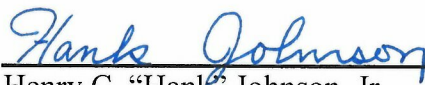
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress




Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



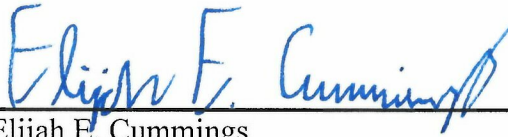
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress



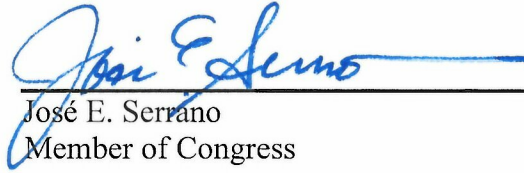
Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



Karen Bass
Member of Congress