

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 1, 2019

President Donald Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to strongly urge you to reinstate Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) for Liberians. We ask that you take this action immediately in order to prevent anxiety and legal uncertainty within our Liberian-American communities.

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 ceased, large populations were internally displaced or fled the country as refugees, and Liberia's infrastructure and economy were destroyed. A second civil war followed from 1999 to 2003. It ended with the departure from power of former President Charles Taylor, who is currently serving a 50-year prison sentence imposed by the Special Court of Sierra Leone after his conviction for war crimes. Subsequently, between 2014 and 2016, Liberia faced an extensive Ebola viral outbreak that killed an estimated nearly 5,000 of the over 10,000 persons who contracted the disease. The outbreak devastated the country's fragile health care system, infrastructure, and economy while exacerbating social tensions.


As a result of these uniquely tragic developments, thousands of Liberians were forced from their homes. Many fled to neighboring countries, while some sought refuge in the United States. Attorney General Thornburgh first granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Liberians present in the United States in 1991. Subsequent Administrations – citing a variety of compelling foreign policy issues, including challenges linked to ongoing post-Ebola and post-war recovery – have repeatedly extended TPS and/or DED for Liberians. However, on March 27, 2018, you announced the termination of DED for all Liberian beneficiaries. As a result, these persons will be at risk of deportation as of March 31, 2019.

Liberia has only just completed its first democratic transfer of power in decades, via a presidential election held at the end of 2017, and there are still serious concerns about the country's ability to maintain peace and deliver essential services to its population. The United States must pursue all possible efforts to help ensure regional stability, foster Liberia's continuing post-war recovery, and protect our country's substantial foreign policy interests, bilateral assistance, and peacekeeping investments. While few in number, an influx of Liberians from the United States could overburden the country's limited infrastructure and reverse the nascent advances that the Liberian people and government have made. Deporting this population would also prevent its members from contributing to the crucial private sector investment and socio-economic assistance that they have long provided in the form of remittances to their relatives in Liberia.

Given these challenges, we believe that it is in the strategic national security, foreign policy, and humanitarian interest of the United States for this population to remain in the United States. Moreover, for more than a quarter of a century the United States has been home to law-abiding and taxpaying Liberians. They have worked hard, played by the rules, and submitted to rigorous vetting. Uprooting them now would be cruel and harmful to them, their families, and employers. We therefore respectfully and urgently request that you reinstate DED for Liberians.

We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



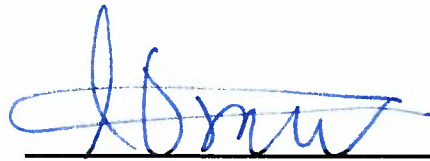
Jack Reed  
United States Senator



Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



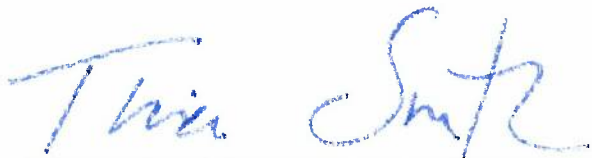
David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



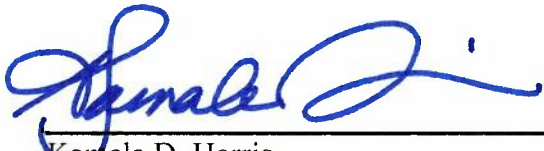
Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress



Tina Smith  
United States Senator

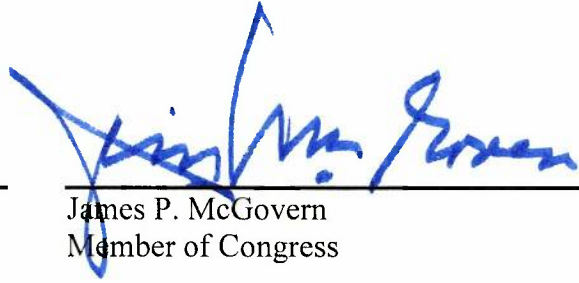


Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



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Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator



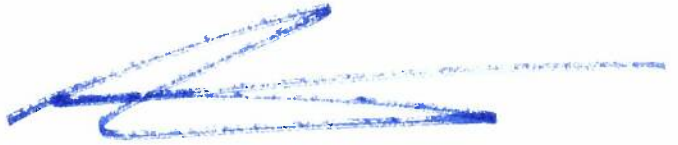
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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



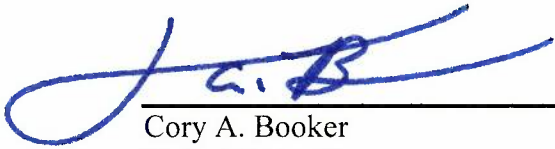
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Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



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Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



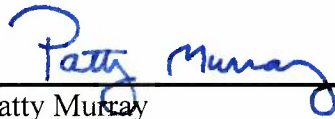
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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



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Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress



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Patty Murray  
United States Senator



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Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



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Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



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Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



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Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



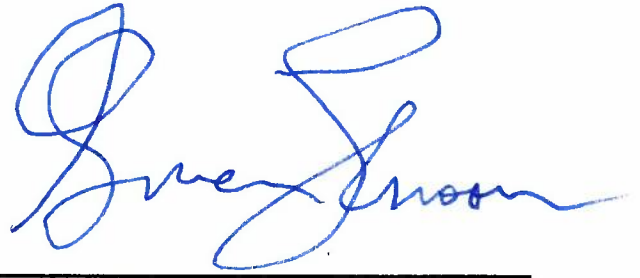
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Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



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Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



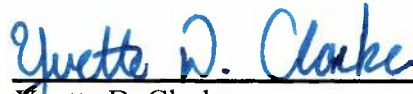
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Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



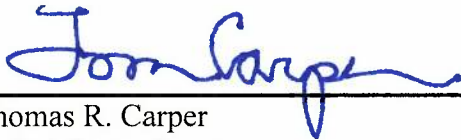
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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



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Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



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Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



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Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



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Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



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Karen Bass  
Member of Congress



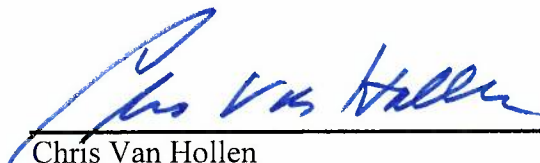
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Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



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Susan Wild  
Member of Congress



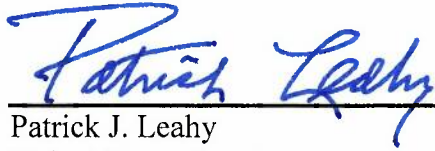
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Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



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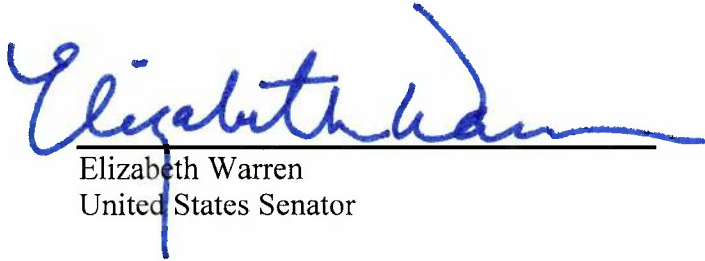
Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



Patrick J. Leahy  
United States Senator



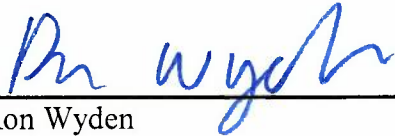
Max Rose  
Member of Congress



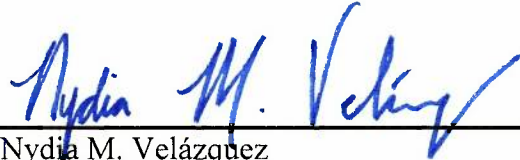
Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



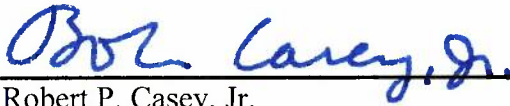
Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



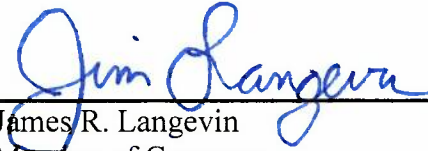
Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



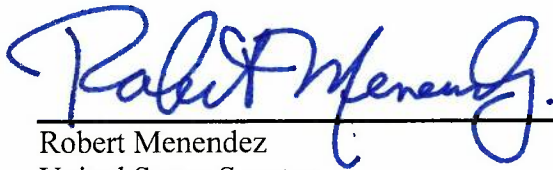
Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress



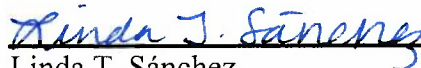
Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



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Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress