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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

November 16, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0001

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0001

The Honorable Eric Cantor
Republican Whip
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0001

The Honorable John Boehner
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0001

The Honorable James Clyburn
Majority Whip
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0001

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Dear Colleagues:

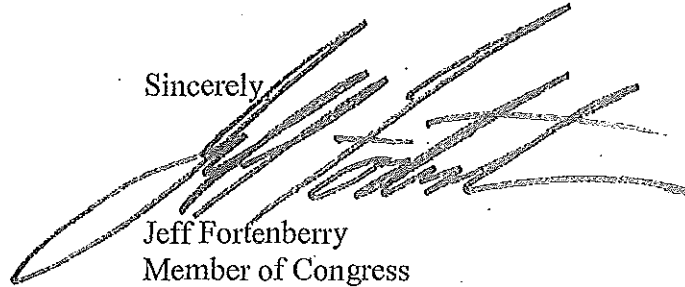
I write to express my concern with circumstances preventing H.R. 5283, the *Help HAITI Act*, from coming to the Floor for a vote. I returned to Washington on Monday, anticipating the House to act to give vulnerable Haitian orphans and their adoptive American families, who have endured so much heartbreak and tragedy, the comfort of knowing they are here to stay. My bipartisan measure, the *Help HAITI Act*, was originally passed by the House on July 20, 2010, then was amended and passed by the Senate on August 4, 2010. I, along with numerous colleagues and members of the international adoption community, was pleased to see its inclusion on Monday's suspensions list.

I was then surprised when it was pulled from legislative business on Monday, and with the consequent secrecy about its current status. My office has heard reports that this critical legislative fix, which would clear legal obstacles to U.S. citizenship for as many as 1200 Haitian orphans who were in the process of being adopted before the January 12 earthquake, may be used as a vehicle for a controversial immigration measure. Please know that while these vulnerable orphans' status remains in limbo, they have fewer legal protections, may not be eligible for critical resources, and risk being forced to return to Haiti. We can act today, with broad bipartisan support, to solve this problem. After these families have opened their hearts and homes to some of the world's most vulnerable children, this security is the least we can give them. The House of Representatives

should affirm this by passing the *Help HAITI Act*, free of unrelated, controversial measures.

I look forward to seeing the existing *Help HAITI Act* return to the Floor for a vote this week.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Fortenberry', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'. The signature is stylized and somewhat messy, with several overlapping strokes.

Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress

CC:

Rep. Ginny Brown-Waite
Rep. Anh "Joseph" Cao
Rep. Bill Cassidy
Rep. Yvette D. Clarke
Rep. John Conyers, Jr.
Rep. Jim Costa
Rep. Jim Gerlach
Rep. Walter B. Jones
Rep. Robert E. Latta
Rep. Zoe Lofgren
Rep. Daniel E. Lungren
Rep. Jerry Moran
Rep. Charles B. Rangel
Rep. Christopher H. Smith
Rep. Lamar Smith
Rep. Lee Terry
Rep. Fred Upton
Rep. Don Young

Rep. G.K. Butterfield
Rep. Sanford D. Bishop
Rep. Corrine Brown
Sen. Roland Burris
Rep. Andre Carson
Delegate Donna M. Christensen
Rep. William Lacy Clay, Jr.
Rep. Emanuel Cleaver II
Rep. Elijah E. Cummings
Rep. Artur Davis
Rep. Danny K. Davis

Rep. Donna Edwards
Rep. Keith Ellison
Rep. Chaka Fattah
Rep. Marcia L. Fudge
Rep. Al Green
Rep. Alcee Hastings
Rep. Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.
Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee
Rep. Hank Johnson
Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson
Rep. Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick
Rep. Barbara Lee
Rep. John Lewis
Rep. Kendrick B. Meek
Rep. Gregory W. Meeks
Rep. Gwendolynne Moore
Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton
Rep. Donald M. Payne
Rep. Laura Richardson
Rep. Bobby Rush
Rep. David Scott
Rep. Robert C. Scott
Rep. Bennie Thompson
Rep. Edolphus Towns
Rep. Maxine Waters
Rep. Diane E. Watson
Rep. Melvin L. Watt