

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 22, 2019

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

Dear Mr. President:

We write to ask that you take immediate action to extend Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) for several thousand Liberian nationals who were admitted to the United States with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and are now facing a March 31 deadline to leave the country. We ask that you extend DED status for Liberians so that they can continue to legally reside in the United States given the instability in Liberia.

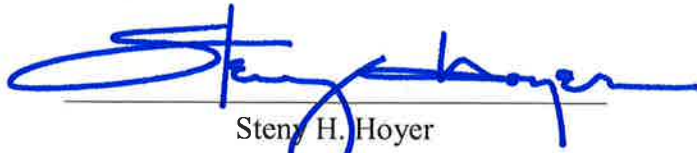
In 1989, a seven-year civil war broke out in Liberia that would claim the lives of over 200,000 people and displace more than half of the Liberian population. During the conflict, food production ceased, large populations were internally displaced or fled the country as refugees, and Liberia's infrastructure 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 fifty-year prison sentence 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.

Given the dangers of deadly disease outbreak and violence in Liberia and its neighboring countries, it would be irresponsible to force these individuals and their families to return at this time. Liberians legally residing in the United States, if sent back, could overburden the country's limited infrastructure and reverse the advances that the Liberian people and government have made. Liberians currently under DED protections contribute positively every day to their communities and our economy. We believe that it is in the strategic national security, foreign policy, and humanitarian interest of the United States for this population to remain here at this time.

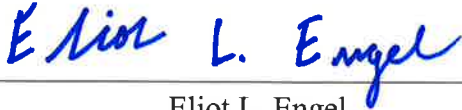
We hope you will take this request under prompt consideration. We stand ready to provide you with any additional information you need and hope you will look carefully at this issue and issue a new DED extension for these individuals and families before the end of the month.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to your timely reply.

Sincerely,



Steny H. Hoyer
House Majority Leader



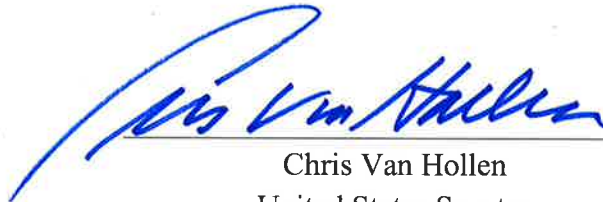
Eliot L. Engel
Chairman, House Committee on Foreign
Affairs



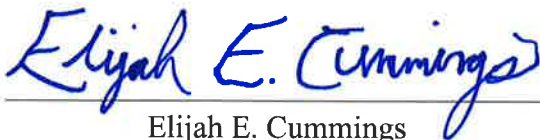
Karen Bass
Chair, Subcommittee on Africa, Global
Health, Global Human Rights and
International Organizations



Ben Cardin
United States Senator



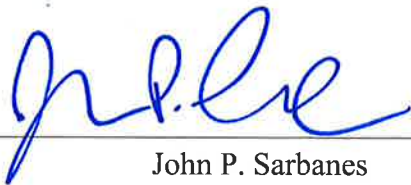
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress



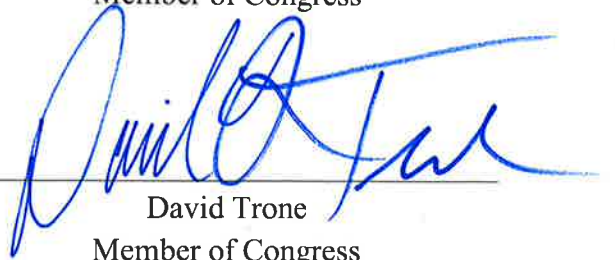
John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



David Trone
Member of Congress