(**Washington, DC)** Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-Miramar) made the following statement on the designation by DHS Secretary Napolitano of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitian nationals in the United States:

"Secretary Napolitano's announcement comes at an extremely critical time for Haiti. It is an announcement that was not only much-needed, but long overdue," said Hastings.

"As Haiti embarks on the road to recovery, I will be a steadfast partner and will serve as a voice for the needs of the Haitian people.

"I am continuing a lifelong fight to end double standard immigration practices for Haitian migrants. I and others have been actively engaged in calling for TPS of Haitian nationals for years and have continuously called upon current and previous administrations to address this matter.

"In Congress, I authored key legislation H.R. 144, the *Haitian Protection Act*, legislation which would designate Haitian nationals in the United States as eligible for TPS.

"While I am pleased this announcement has been made, we must remember that past circumstances should have prompted this long before now."

Congressman Alcee L. Hastings is Vice Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, a senior member of the House Rules Committee, and Co-Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission.

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