## Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 4, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem Secretary U.S. Department of Homeland Security 3801 Nebraska Avenue NW Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Noem,

We write to urgently call on and request the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to immediately designate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Jamaica following the catastrophic impact of Hurricane Melissa.

Jamaica is currently confronting widespread devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa. The storm has left countless residents without homes, electricity, clean water, or access to medical care. Roads and vital infrastructure have been destroyed, communities are struggling to recover, and the Government of Jamaica faces immense challenges in restoring essential services. Tens of thousands have been displaced, and recovery is expected to take months – if not years. Under these conditions, it would be unsafe and inhumane to require Jamaican nationals currently residing in the United States to return home.

The United States has a longstanding and close relationship with Jamaica. Congress established TPS precisely for moments such as this – when natural disasters or humanitarian crises render a country temporarily uninhabitable. Extending TPS to Jamaican nationals would reaffirm our nation's commitments and ensure that individuals are not forced to return to life-threatening conditions

Pursuant to Section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security may designate a country for TPS when extraordinary and temporary conditions – such as environmental disasters – prevent its nationals from safely returning home. We believe the situation in Jamaica clearly meets this statutory standard.

We therefore strongly urge you to:

- 1. Immediately designate Jamaica for Temporary Protected Status under the Immigration and Nationality Act;
- 2. Allow all eligible Jamaican nationals currently residing in the United States to remain here lawfully and continue contributing to our communities; and
- 3. Coordinate with federal, state, and international partners to support Jamaica's recovery and strengthen disaster resilience across the Caribbean region.

The United States must stand firmly with Jamaica during this crisis. Our nations are bound by shared history, culture, and family ties. Many of our constituents are deeply affected by this tragedy, and we respectfully urge you to grant TPS for Jamaica without delay.

We look forward to your prompt action and remain committed to working with DHS to provide the protection and stability this moment demands.

Sincerely,

Vette D. Clarke

Member of Congress

Paul D. Tonko

Member of Congress

Gwen S. Moore

Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.

Member of Congress

Gregory W. Meeks

Member of Congress

Shomari Figures

Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson

Member of Congress

Sylvia R. Garcia

Member of Congress

Maxine Waters

Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty

Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Member of Congress

Darren Soto

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James P. McGovern

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Ritchie Torres Nydia M. Velázquez Pramila Jayapal Member of Congress Member of Congress Member of Congress Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick **Eleanor Holmes Norton Dwight Evans** Member of Congress Member of Congress Member of Congress Ken GTH Delia C. Ramirez Bennie G. Thompson Member of Congress Member of Congress Member of Congress ratel Shontel M. Brown Wesley Bel Member of Congress Member of Congress Member of Congress Steven Horsford LaMonica McIver Member of Congress Member of Congress Member of Congress Nevada's Fourth Congressional District

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Adam Smith Member of Congress

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