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AND CONSUMER CREDIT

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

September 23, 2014

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to express our strong support to extend Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) status for Liberians currently residing in the United States. We ask that you extend this status, which expires September 30, 2014, for two years. We also request that you take swift action in extending this status for Liberians so as to avoid the unnecessary fear and anxiety of possible deportation.

In 1989, Liberia entered a civil war that resulted in human rights atrocities and displaced more than half the country's population. Thousands of Liberians found refuge in the United States, where they were granted the opportunity to register for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) beginning in 1991.

Although Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has made tremendous strides in rebuilding the country now that the war has ended, the Liberian government, economy, and people continue to suffer from the leveling impact of Former President Charles Taylor's regime. The destruction and devastation Taylor left in his wake are intractable and will take many years to overcome. Unemployment is still high, infrastructure remains damaged, and violence in neighboring countries threatens the delicate peace the country has seen in recent years. Additionally, the current Ebola crisis has greatly weakened the country's infrastructure and stability, and it would be imprudent to send individuals into this environment and to risk exposing them to this deadly disease.

An unintended consequence of this prolonged conflict is that for over twenty years, Liberians have been living in this country, alternating between TPS and DED status. During this time,

many Liberians have made America their home and have started families, raised American-born children, gone to college, and contributed to our economy.

If DED status is terminated, Liberians who have made the United States their home would face forced repatriation, which would uproot many families, separate loved ones, and disrupt the lives Liberians have created for themselves over many years. We urge you to extend DED status for Liberians living in the US.

Sincerely,



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress