
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 140 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY KHAN, BELLMON, CURRY, HILL-EVANS, RABB, SOLOMON,
PARKER, KAZEEM, HOHENSTEIN, MADDEN, SANCHEZ, GUENST, BRENNAN,
KINSEY, NEILSON, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, PROBST AND HOWARD,
JUNE 5, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JUNE 5, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the President and Congress of the United States to direct
2 additional humanitarian aid to Haiti.

3 WHEREAS, Haiti, a Caribbean nation of 12 million people,
4 became the world's first independent, Black-led republic and the
5 first independent Caribbean state when the organized revolt of
6 formerly enslaved Haitians and others conquered the French and
7 abolished slavery in the early 1800s; and

8 WHEREAS, Haiti was originally a French colony known as Saint-
9 Domingue until in 1791 where, inspired by the French Revolution
10 and American Revolution, enslaved Haitians staged the world's
11 largest and most successful slave revolt, eventually declaring
12 independence from France; and

13 WHEREAS, Haiti's unique culture and traditions have made
14 important impacts on the world through its innovative
15 literature, art, music and dance as well as its distinctive
16 cuisine, architecture, festivities and history; and

17 WHEREAS, Many renowned Haitians and individuals of Haitian

1 descent have accomplished impressive personal achievements such
2 as the Harvard President Claudine Gay, acclaimed rapper and
3 philanthropist Wyclef Jean, prolific artist Jean-Michel
4 Basquiat, four-time Grand Slam singles tennis champion Naomi
5 Osaka, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre,
6 sociologist, civil rights activist and author W.E.B. Du Bois,
7 writer, musician and intellectual Frankétienne, author Dany
8 Laferriere, former Philadelphia 76er Samuel Dalembert, former
9 Philadelphia Eagle Max Jean-Gilles and former Pittsburgh Penguin
10 Georges Laraque; and

11 WHEREAS, Haiti is undergoing a severe humanitarian crisis due
12 to political instability, food insecurity, widespread violence
13 and illness; and

14 WHEREAS, Currently, Haiti has no democratically elected
15 officials as the country's two parliamentary bodies have not
16 filled any seats since its 10 remaining senators left office;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Haiti's de facto leader, Prime Minister Ariel Henry,
19 was never officially sworn in, and the country has not had a
20 President since its last, Jovenel Moïse, was assassinated in
21 2021; and

22 WHEREAS, Haiti is facing rampant gang violence, which has
23 displaced more than 150,000 people and forced organizations,
24 such as Doctors Without Borders, to close facilities and
25 relocate staff; and

26 WHEREAS, Haiti's underfunded police officers are unable to
27 combat this violence, and nearly two dozen officers have been
28 killed in 2023; and

29 WHEREAS, A cholera outbreak is estimated to have infected
30 25,000 Haitians since late 2022, and the nation's struggling

1 health care system is unable to serve most people; and

2 WHEREAS, Inflation has sent the price of food and gas in
3 Haiti spiraling; and

4 WHEREAS, Approximately 40% of Haiti's population is facing
5 food insecurity; and

6 WHEREAS, Natural disasters, such as hurricanes and
7 earthquakes, have historically devastated the nation, and the
8 most recent natural disasters have kept thousands of schools in
9 Haiti closed; and

10 WHEREAS, Population data indicates that Philadelphia is among
11 the top locations for Haitian immigrants in the United States;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Foreign policy decisions by France, the United
14 States and other nations towards Haiti, including crippling
15 trade and military policies, have often been detrimental to the
16 health, safety, democracy and overall prosperity of the nation
17 since Haiti's founding in 1804; and

18 WHEREAS, An influx of firearms has been illegally trafficked
19 over the past few years from Florida to Haiti, which has
20 worsened the gang violence occurring in the nation; and

21 WHEREAS, The United States policy toward Haiti under the
22 Biden administration is intended to foster foundational
23 institutions and infrastructure necessary for democracy and
24 poverty reduction through sustainable development; and

25 WHEREAS, Both the United States and Haiti benefit when this
26 close neighbor is more prosperous, secure and rooted in
27 democracy, which are the mutual goals of both nations; and

28 WHEREAS, With the dire situation in Haiti worsening on
29 several fronts, the help of the United States has never been
30 more critical; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
2 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the President and Congress of
3 the United States to direct additional humanitarian aid to Haiti
4 and, with Haitians, the Haitian diaspora and national and
5 international stakeholders and partners, lead a diplomatic
6 solution to the crisis; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
8 the President of the United States and to each member of
9 Congress from Pennsylvania.