

EQUAL TREATMENT COALITION

from Steven Forester, Esq.
305 754-8834

January 16, 1998

Mr. Jeb Bush
Florida G.O.P. Gubernatorial Candidate

Dear Mr. Bush:

As you visit Delray Beach's "Little Haiti," we urge you to strongly support the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act introduced by Representative Carrie Meek and co-sponsored by Representatives Lincoln Diaz-Balart and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and more than seventy others, and companion legislation introduced by Senators Graham, Mack, Kennedy, Moynihan, and Moseley-Braun.

On November 19, 1997, President Clinton signed the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act ("NACARA"), making an estimated 150,000 Nicaraguan and Cuban refugees eligible for legal permanent residence. Haitians were excluded.

Members of the Equal Treatment Coalition ("ETC") would like to meet with you as soon as possible to discuss our concerns and brainstorm strategies for securing passage of the strongest and most inclusive Haitian legislation in the upcoming session.

Specific issues include the unacceptability of anything less than permanent residence -- as opposed to an ability to apply for suspension of deportation under the old rules -- as an outcome of the legislation, and getting the White House and other leaders to champion it instead of sitting on the fence.

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Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Attn: Debbie Zimmerman

Dear Representative Ros-Lehtinen:

Thank you for co-sponsoring Carrie Meek's bill.

Members of the Equal Treatment Coalition ("ETC") would like to meet with you as soon as possible to discuss our concerns and brainstorm strategies for securing passage of the strongest and most inclusive Haitian legislation in the upcoming session.

Specific issues include the unacceptability of anything less than permanent residence -- as opposed to an ability to apply for suspension of deportation under the old rules -- as an outcome of the legislation, and getting the White House and House leaders to champion it instead of sitting on the fence.