

## EQUAL TREATMENT COALITION

from Steven Forester, Esq.  
305 754-8834

January 16, 1998

Honorable Alcee Hastings  
Attn: Art Kennedy

Dear Alcee:

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 getting the White House to champion such legislation instead of sitting on the fence, etc.

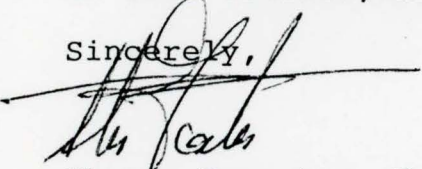
ETC is broadly inclusive. Thirty-six Haitian community leaders attended last night's meeting, the third 30-plus meeting in three weeks. Active members include Clarel Cyriaque, President, Haitian Lawyers Association ("HLA"), and HLA members Marie G. Estime-Thompson, Evenette Mondesir, Gabrielle Alexis, Michael Foulkes, Ralph Francois, Ronald Cordon, and Antoine Isma; Dr. Larry Pierre, Director, Center for Haitian Studies; Daniella Henry, Director, Haitian American Community Council Delray Beach; Jean-Claude Exulien, Director, Centre D'Orientation & D'Information (COIN); Dr. Antoine Auguste of Florida Memorial College; Jacques Despinosse, Director, Haitian American Democratic Club; Louis Lacroix, Director, HACAD; Emile Viard, Director, and Randy McGrority, attorney, Pierre Toussaint Haitian Catholic Center; Roland Montas of CAA's Edison/Little River Advisory Board; Carline Paul of Haitian American Youth of Tomorrow; Carol Aronovitz of the Committee for Amnesty; attorneys Michael Ray and Neil Kolner of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and the National Lawyers Guild; Jonas George, Director of the Society for Haitian Advancement, Recognition, and Education (SHARE); Jean Robert Lafortune of CAA; attorney Kerry Doyle and Constantin Chery of Church World Service; Milton Gonzalez, Vice-President of Bloque de Apoyo a la Unidad Nicaraguense (BAUNIC), and other BAUNIC members; Lavarice Gaudin and Tony Jeanthenor, leaders of Veye Yo, the Haitian grassroots group; J. C. Cantave of HACEPA; Joe Celestin and Paul Joanelof of the Comite Justice Pour Immigrants Haitien (HAPAC); Pastor Victor Isidor; Elisson Toussaint of the Haitian American Christian Society of St. Vincent de Paul; Marleine Bastien, Edline Clermont, and Aude Sicard of Haitian Women of Miami; radio commentator George Gay of Haitian Connection; attorney Esther Cruz of the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center; Gepsie Metellus, Director of Public Affairs for Dade County Commissioner Barbara Carey; attorney Candace Jean; Leonie Hermantin of the Haitian American Foundation; and Carmelo Pierre

Phillippe and other activists.

We hope to see you at your earliest opportunity.

It was an honor and pleasure as always to see you in Washington in late October, and best wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely,



Steven Forester, Esq.  
Coordinator, ETC

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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.

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Senator Bob Graham  
Attn: Gary Aragon

Dear Senator Graham:

Thank you for championing our cause.

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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 to champion legislation instead of sitting on the fence.

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January 16, 1998

Senator Connie Mack

Dear Senator Mack:

Thank you for co-sponsoring the Haitian legislation.

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from Steven Forester, Esq.  
305 754-8834

January 16, 1998

Representative Lincoln Diaz-Balart  
Attn: Ana Carbonell

Dear Representative Diaz-Balart:

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

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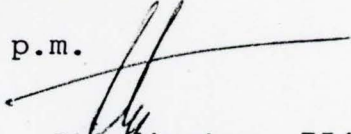
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EQUAL TREATMENT COALITION

MEETING THIS TUESDAY JANUARY 20 AT 7 P.M.  
AT HAITIAN CATHOLIC CENTER RECTORY, 110 N.E. 62nd St.  
PLEASE BE PROMPT!

Suggested agenda:

1. Amendment and/or approval of minutes and agenda. ← Ira's figure? 200 to 1100
2. Selection of Secretary - Neil no longer interested
3. Conduit update and committee reports
4. Strategy Update and Discussion
5. Other Old and New Business
6. Adjournment by 8:30 p.m.

  
by Steven Forester, Esq., Coordinator, 754-8834

~~Mr. Cante~~  
Thursday 4PM - Toussaint Elem 1/22/98