

HAITIAN LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION
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MAR 09

FAX TRANSMISSION

DATE: March 9, 1998

TO: Gypsie Mettelus
Commissioner Barbara Carey's office
@ (305)372-6104

FROM: Regine Monestime
Haitian Lawyers' Association
@ (305)893-2331

RE: Fundraising letter

PAGES: 2 including cover

COMMENTS:

Hello. I am following up on your conversation with Jean-Robert Lafortune. He asked me to fax you a letter addressed to the county commissioners offices. He told me that you would distribute it to Commissioner Carey and the other commissioners. Thanks for your help. You may reach me at (305)893-2258 or fax me at (305)893-2331 if you have any questions. Again, thank you and I look forward to speaking with you soon.



HAITIAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

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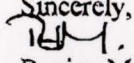
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secretary

The Haitian Immigration Task Force consists of grassroots and professional organizations formed by Representative Carrie Meek in an effort to obtain permanent residency for Haitian immigrants. Last year, the United States Congress enacted and President Clinton signed the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA) enabling over 150,000 Nicaraguans and Cubans permanent residency in the United States. Equally deserving Haitian immigrants were completely excluded from NACARA. In an effort to correct that inequity, Senator Bob Graham and Representative Carrie Meek have introduced bills that would provide permanent residency relief to Haitians.

Miami-Dade county would be adversely affected by the deportation of over two hundred thousand Haitians. Absent any relief from Congress, many Haitians would be forced to leave their families and lives and return to a country where they may be persecuted. Many Haitians facing the threat of deportation have established roots and have greatly contributed to their South Florida communities. In fact, the consequence of Congress' actions would be economically detrimental to the community at large. That is why our efforts and those of many others are absolutely necessary.

The Task Force is diligently working on all political fronts to ensure that Haitians receive equal treatment. Among other things, we are organizing a massive rally in Washington D.C. on March 23, 1998 where over 10,000 people from all over the United States are expected. As you are aware organizing a rally of this proportion is a monumental task. Consequently, we are asking for the assistance from the Board of Miami-Dade County Commissioners who serve over three hundred thousand Haitian-American residents throughout Dade County. We recognize and appreciate your commitment to obtaining permanent residency for Haitians. We therefore ask that you breathe life into the resolution written by the Board of Commissioners and financially support the March 23 rally. Specifically, we are asking you to sponsor four buses that would permit approximately two hundred and fifty people to travel from Miami to Washington D.C. We are aware and apologize for the time constraints placed on the commissioner's office. However, to have a significant impact in Congress, it is imperative that we have an overwhelming presence in Washington D.C. The date of the rally fast approaching and we are in dire need of financial assistance.

We ask that you help the residents who live and work in Miami-Dade County and who vote to for the commissioners who represent their district. We thank you for your consideration and look forward to a favorable response you.

Sincerely,

Regine Monestime,
Haitian Lawyers' Association