

Re: "Haiti is in crisis. Biden should appoint a special envoy to encourage Haitian-led solutions" by Rep. Frederica S. Wilson and Jean Monestime

To the Editor:

Rep. Wilson and Mr. Monestime's article presents Haiti's proposed constitutional reforms to redress serious structural imbalances as a power grab, despite President Moise neither standing nor supporting a candidate in upcoming presidential elections. None of the changes – supported by 86% of the public as demonstrated in a recent poll – will benefit him.

The authors are aware of the chronic political instability which has faced Haiti for decades, which is in large part the result of a flawed system established in the 1987 constitution. They assert that our country's history of failing to hold elections "has perpetuated a cycle of instability". Florida International University once termed the 1987 constitution "a wonderful exercise in theoretical grandiloquence with little relevance to reality" – in practice, it crafted political structures designed for dysfunction, corruption and paralysis. This cracked foundation desperately needs to be fixed if Haiti is to have a functioning democratic government, real development, and progress toward opportunity, prosperity and rule of law.

Haiti's government is doing the hard work, every day, of strengthening our fragile democracy – and we are working with the valued support of the UN, Organization of American States and US State Department in those efforts. We have called on Haitian and international civil society to take part in our referendum vote and national elections this year as independent observers. We are working to inform the public in Haiti and the Haitian diaspora about the constitutional proposal ahead of the vote, so they're ready to decide.

We want our American partners to constructively support the democratic process and the right to self-determination in Haiti.

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