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CONTACT:

amb.washington@diplomatie.ht

+1(202) 332-4090

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF HAITI IN WASHINGTON, D.C.
WELCOMES THE BIPARTISAN INTRODUCTION OF THE HAITI ECONOMIC
LIFT PROGRAM (HELP) EXTENSION ACT OF 2021 BY THE UNITED STATES
CONGRESS**

Washington, D.C. (December 3, 2021) On behalf of the Government, the Embassy of the Republic of Haiti in Washington, D.C. welcomes Senator Marco Rubio (FL-R) and House Representative Maria Salazar's (FL-R) introduction of the Haiti Economic Lift Program (HELP) Extension Act of 2021 before the United States Congress. The Government of Haiti wishes to thank the co-sponsors of this legislation.

For the past year, the Embassy of the Republic of Haiti, Haitian diaspora, Tripartite Commission for the Implementation of the HOPE Act, and the Association of Industries of Haiti (ADIH) have been advocating relentlessly for the urgent renewal of the program.

The law on Hemispheric Assistance to Haiti through the Promotion of the 2008 Economic Partnership, its American acronym (HOPE II/HELP), which expires in 2025, grants preferential treatment to imports of clothing, textile products, and certain other items from Haiti without customs fees. The HELP Act works alongside the Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity through Partnership Encouragement (HOPE) Act to help extend duty-free shipping to the US market, which includes approximately 1,500 products – making for a total of 5,000 duty-free products eligible under the Generalized Systems of Preferences (GSP). While COVID-19 affected all sectors of national life; however, the textile/clothing sector alone, which accounts for about 90% of Haiti's exports, has already begun to recover and still retains its potential.

According to a report published by the Tripartite Commission for the Implementation of the HOPE Act in Port-au-Prince, the industry provides direct employment to roughly 59,000 workers and has the potential of creating over 150,000 additional jobs.

Haiti's Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Bocchit Edmond, emphasized that "*HELP would play a crucial role in strengthening the supply chains for PPEs and textiles in response to COVID-19, making America less dependent on nations outside the Western Hemisphere. Haiti hopes and expects to benefit from the near-shoring. Furthermore, economic opportunities supporting Haitian exports and creating jobs for the Haitian people would reduce illegal migration to the United States.*" Ambassador Edmonds further calls on companies to take advantage of this legislation to engage in business beyond the textile sector in Haiti. The country has a vibrant, youthful population that is ready to work.

According to the Haitian Tripartite Commission for the Implementation of the HOPE Act, bipartisan support of the legislation is a clear message from Washington that trade policy that supports the Haitian economy remains a priority. The Commission avails itself to continue working with the United States Congress on the passage of this critical piece of legislation.

The Embassy looks forward to continued engagement with the United States Congress on the passage of the Haiti Economic Lift Program (HELP) Extension Act during this legislative session.

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