

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 2024

Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC, 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to request that you exercise your authority under [46 U.S. Code § 70051](#) and declare an “anticipated mass migration of aliens en route to, or arriving off the coast of, the United States” as urgent circumstances requiring an immediate federal response.

On March 14, 2024, during the House Armed Services Committee hearing on North and South Command posture, General Laura Richardson, Commander of United States Southern Command, [stated](#): “I think that we need to be postured appropriately [to address the threat of mass migration from Haiti], for that is exactly what you’re talking about. And **I have put in a request for increased capability to do exactly that.** And we are ready if a mass migration if we need to deal with a mass migration.” Additionally, Gen. Richards was asked: “Can I leave this discussion, believing that it will be your **best military advice to the administration to utilize DoD assets for this purpose?**” She responded: “I’m requested to do that. I will definitely do that.”

While on the same day, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, [announced](#) Florida will deploy additional law enforcement resources to the southern regions of the state in anticipation of a possible wave of Haitian migrants as the Caribbean country struggles amid street violence and political instability, we believe the resources are insufficient to address the scope and scale of the anticipated mass migration. A declaration pursuant to [Executive Order 13276](#) is necessary to reinforce the State of Florida’s efforts by utilizing Department of Defense vessels to conduct maritime interdictions and interceptions of aliens from Haiti and repatriate them, preferably to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, as this limits the financial obligation of U.S. taxpayers.

We urge you to engage the necessary assets to conduct maritime interdictions and interceptions of Haitians under 46 U.S. Code § 70051 and Executive Order 13276 and repatriate them to Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Sincerely,



Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress



Gus Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Anna Paulina Luna
Member of Congress



Daniel Webster
Member of Congress