



# Congressional Black Caucus

OF THE 111<sup>TH</sup> UNITED STATES CONGRESS

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- Yvette D. Clarke, NY - '07
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- Hank Johnson, GA - '07
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## Change Course, Confront Crises, Continue the Legacy

February 1, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

Since the devastating Haiti earthquake of January 12, 2010, the United States has played an instrumental role in recovery efforts and treatment of the wounded. It is our understanding that U.S. personnel have attended to nearly 23,000 patients during this period. Medical evacuations have included many critical cases: multiple trauma, spinal cord injury, and pediatric cases.

Because of the medically serious nature of these cases, the Congressional Black Caucus ("CBC") was concerned to learn in a January 30, 2010 *New York Times* article that medical evacuations had been suspended as of Wednesday, January 27, 2010. On Sunday January 31, 2010, your administration announced the resumption of medical evacuations.

The CBC is interested in learning which factors informed the decision to suspend flights. Given the serious long-term health care needs in Haiti, it can be anticipated that the country will require ongoing medical support from the international community as Haiti's medical infrastructure is rebuilt.

We inquire of the specific factors that triggered suspension of medical evacuation and whether plans exist to ensure continuity in the future care and treatment of critically wounded patients.

Thank you for all that your administration has undertaken in response to the needs of Haiti. We look forward to further discussion of these vital issues.

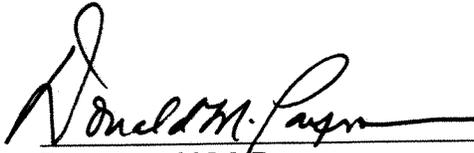
Sincerely,

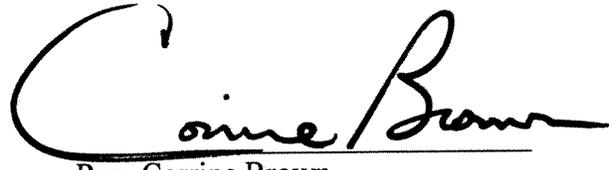
Rep. Barbara Lee  
Chairwoman

Rep. John Conyers  
Member of Congress

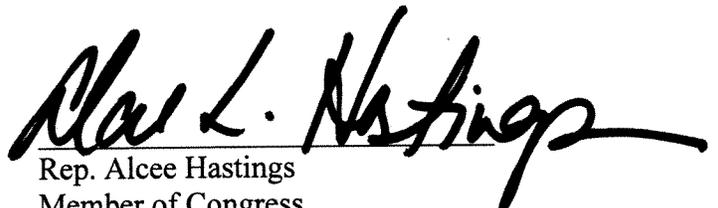


President Obama  
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Rep. Donald M. Payne  
Member of Congress

  
Rep. Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress

  
Rep. Kendrick B. Meek  
Member of Congress

  
Rep. Alcee Hastings  
Member of Congress