Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 23, 2026

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Scott Bessent
Secretary of Treasury
U.S. Department of Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20220

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretaries Rubio, Bessent and Hegseth:

We are writing to express our concern regarding the Administration's failure to fully implement the bipartisan Haiti Criminal Collusion Transparency Act, which passed as Section 8319 of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY26 (NDAA FY26) and was enacted into law on December 18, 2025. By failing to name and sanction the political and economic elite fueling Haiti's insecurity, the Administration allows those responsible to evade accountability and signals that their actions carry no consequences. The Administration's inaction undermines U.S. efforts to advance security and democratic governance in Haiti and harms U.S. national security interests.

Under the Haiti Criminal Collusion Transparency Act, which Secretary Rubio led as the Republican sponsor when he was a Senator, the State Department is required to work with the interagency to submit an annual report identifying Haitian political and economic elites with significant ties to criminal gangs who have supported, protected, or benefitted from the ongoing security crisis and describe their criminal collusion in detail. The bill also mandates that the President impose sanctions on such actors within 90 days of the report, including through asset blocking and visa restrictions.

On June 30, 2026, Congress received the first annual report required by the Act. The report rightfully notes that "[c]ollusion between the politicians and economic elite with terrorist gangs threatens the Haitian people and viability of the Haitian State . . . fuel[ing] impunity, gang violence, and political instability." It also underscores how this "collusion directly harms the U.S. interest in stabilizing Haiti to prevent mass and illegal immigration to U.S. shores . . . [and] also threatens U.S. citizens and embassy security." However, the rest of the report and subsequent actions by your departments fail to show an intent to comply with the text or spirit of the law.

The June report, for example, listed only individuals who had already been sanctioned prior to the Act's passage. Repackaging existing designations does not meet the Act's requirement to identify those who finance and enable gang violence in Haiti. The report similarly fails to provide any new insight on the current nature or magnitude of criminal collusion in Haiti, the leadership structure of gangs and their involvement in firearms trafficking and human smuggling or the concrete actions the

U.S. government will take to address these issues. Despite Secretary Rubio's declaration in May 2025 that "the age of impunity for those supporting violence in Haiti is over", the Administration also did not comply with the Act's mandatory requirement that the political and economic sponsors of gangs be sanctioned by September 28, 2026. The Administration has not invoked the Act's national security waiver nor provided any other rationale for its inaction.

The Administration has repeatedly failed to adequately engage with the committees of jurisdiction on implementation of the law. In communications to Congress, State Department representatives have confirmed that there is no working list of sanctionable targets in Haiti. The State Department has also been unable to explain why a classified annex on criminal collusion in Haiti, which was permitted by the legislation and would have addressed alleged concerns about the sensitivity of the information being requested, was not included in the June 30 Report or subsequently provided to Congress. To date, the Administration has failed to make leadership from the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, representative from the U.S. Embassy in Port-Au-Prince, or personnel from the Office of Foreign Assets Control available for briefings with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and House Foreign Affairs Committee on the Act's implementation.

At a time when the Haitian people are preparing to vote for the first time in over a decade, Congress, the American public and the Haitian people deserve transparency about the nature and scale of collusion between gangs and their political and economic support networks. The consequences of the Administration's silence on this issue are already evident, as at least one individual with ties to multiple gangs, Michel Martelly, is running as candidate for President despite the Organization of American States and other regional leaders calling for bans on gang-linked candidates. Past failures to confront these criminal networks helped the current crisis in Haiti take hold. Repeating them would undermine the Administration's own goals of credible elections and security gains through the Gang Suppression Force. We demand the Administration take immediate and concrete steps to comply with the law, provide a bipartisan classified briefing on the Act's implementation, and prioritize efforts to hold corrupt Haitian elites accountable.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member
Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Gregory W. Meeks
Ranking Member
House Foreign Affairs Committee