

R037 - 0809

10 **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE PARTICIPATION OF HAITI**
20 **IN THE DIVERSITY VISA PROGRAM**

30 **WHEREAS:** Haiti is ineligible to participate in the United States' 2009 Diversity
40 Visa Program due to increased numbers of immigrants in recent
50 years; and,

60 **WHEREAS:** Haiti is the poorest nation in the world according to the CIA World
70 Factbook; and,

80 **WHEREAS:** A recent survey stated that Haitian citizens were subject to the
90 fifteenth worst quality of life in the world, and the worst in the
100 western hemisphere; and

110 **WHEREAS:** All of the other countries with lower quality of life indexes from this
120 are included in the United States' 2009 Diversity Visa Program; and,

110 **WHEREAS:** In 2008 Hurricane season, Haiti has been hit by four destructive
120 hurricanes, worsening their already poor standard of living; and,

130 **WHEREAS:** As a result of this visa shortage, more Haitians will try to escape the
140 oppression found in their homeland through illegal means.

150 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature
160 urges the United States Congress to allot 2,000 Diversity Visas for
170 residents of Haiti to escape the oppression and poor quality of life in
180 Haiti.

190 **MANDATES:** House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer
200 House Minority Leader John Boehner
210 Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid
220 Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell
230 Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice

SPONSOR:

Matt Emery, Speaker of the Assembly, McDaniel College