FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CFHLA CALLS FOR RENEWAL OF “TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS” FOR HAITIAN NATIONALS

ORLANDO, FL (May 19, 2017): The Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association (CFHLA), a trade association representing approximately 80% of all lodging establishments in Central Florida, stands with United States Senators Bill Nelson and Marco Rubio in their calls for renewal of the “Temporary Protected Status” granted to 50,000 Haitian nationals currently residing in the United States.

In recent letters distributed to Senators Nelson and Rubio, as well as to Florida Governor Rick Scott, CFHLA President & CEO Richard Maladecki expressed the importance of renewing the TPS designation as it relates to Central Florida’s Hospitality Industry, which employs hundreds, if not thousands, of Haitian nationals covered by the TPS.

“As our Lodging General Managers will gladly tell you, their Haitian employees are among the hardest-working and enthusiastic customer service ambassadors our industry has to offer. Florida’s economy relies on a strong Tourism sector and the Tourism Industry relies on our proud Haitian workforce,” said Maladecki.

The people of Haiti are still struggling following the disastrous 2010 earthquake, and Maladecki insists that the “Haitian nationals working in our Florida communities have more than earned their right to continue making a living here in the land of opportunity to support their families here in the United States as well as loved ones still living in their impoverished homeland.”

CFHLA calls on all Central Florida business and government leaders to join efforts in encouraging Department of Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly to renew the Temporary Protected Status designation.

The Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association is the world’s largest regional hotel association, representing approximately 80% of all lodging rooms in Orange, Osceola and Seminole Counties.