**April 9th Senator Bill Frist Remarks for Lunch Discussion with Hatian Health Minister, Dr. Florence Duperval Guillaume**

* It is an honor to share the stage this afternoon with Haiti’s Health Minister, Dr. Florence Duperval Guillaume.
* Minister Guillaume assumed her ministerial position in 2011, and has overseen efforts to rebuild the country's fragile medical services, including by starting new hospitals, managing the response to Haiti’s cholera epidemic and leading Haiti’s efforts to combat HIV/AIDS. She also recently served as the Acting Prime Minister of Haiti during a political transition.
* Minister Guillaume previously served as deputy chief of management science for Health in Haiti, an organization working with government and private groups across a wide range of medical problems.
* I first met Minister Guillaume during an event in 2013 to open the new Mirebalais University Hospital, which was spearheaded by Dr. Paul Farmer’s Partners in Health organization. This was a triumphant moment, and for me personally capped several years of direct involvement in Haiti following the 2010 earthquake.
* Immediately after the earthquake in 2010, I had the opportunity to travel down to Haiti and assist in the medical relief effort. As a surgeon, I joined a volunteer medical response team from Samaritan’s Purse, and in the days following the quake, we helped care for hundreds of injured patients.
* The medical need in Haiti was desperate — in particular for surgeons. Having responded in this capacity just after the tsunami in Sri Lanka and four days after the levees broke following Katrina, I decided to join the relief effort in Haiti.
* Moments after the massive earthquake shook Haiti, more than 200,000 people died and nearly $8 billion worth of damage was done. Homes, businesses, schools and hospitals crumbled, all in a country already experiencing 70 percent unemployment.
* To help lead the U.S. response, President Obama asked former Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush to raise money to help Haiti build its own sustainable path forward. The Clinton Bush Haiti fund began making targeted investments, using a variety of tools to help Haiti “build back better.”
* As a board member of the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund, I traveled to Haiti to check on the post-earthquake progress being made through the fund’s projects. The Clinton Bush Haiti Fund embraced a new model that focused on promoting economic growth and spurring job creation. Health was one of the program’s areas of investment through grant funding to the Mirebalais University Hospital.
* The Mirebalais hospital is the largest post-earthquake reconstruction project in Haiti’s public health sector. The 300-bed teaching hospital, which will serve as a teaching facility for Haitian doctors and nurses, has more than 30 outpatient consulting rooms and six operating suites—capable of serving 500 patients a day.
* The Clinton Bush Haiti Fund's grant to Partners In Health established a medical residency education program in rural Haiti. This program is strengthening the capacity of l’Hôpital Saint Nicolas, which is the primary hospital for the people of Saint Marc and for the 1.5 million people in the Artibonite region. The program trains Haitian physicians and retrains Haitian nursing staff in this understaffed hospital, vastly improving the doctor-to-patient ratios in the region and the country.
* One of the most inspiring aspects of the Haiti earthquake relief effort was how it brought American communities together to aid in the response. In my hometown of Nashville, it was truly amazing to see so many organizations and individuals take time from their busy lives to help the people of Haiti rebuild.
* I want to recognize my friend from Nashville Tracie Hamilton who is here with us today. Tracie and her husband Scott, the former Olympic ice-skating champion, are a great example of the type of compassionate and selfless giving we saw in abundance after the Haiti earthquake. They have traveled to Haiti nearly 20 times since the earthquake to help in the relief effort, and support organizations such as LiveBeyond, a faith-based, humanitarian organization started by health leaders in Nashville to bring medical and maternal health care, clean water, education, orphan care, and community development to the people of Thomazeau, Haiti.
* Minister Guillaume and I share a strong belief in the need to develop health capacity through the training and support of community health workers, and we also share a common commitment to investing in maternal, newborn and child health.
* Building health capacity is something I have strived for throughout my career in medicine and public service- Global Health Corps, HTHH global health scholars, etc.
* I have often spoken of global health diplomacy as one of the key and yet often overlooked tools of U.S. foreign policy, recognizing that health serves as currency for peace and stability. In fact, I would argue that our health assistance programs are the very best type of U.S. engagement in the world, because it combines our American values of compassion, ingenuity and pragmatism.
* Haiti serves as a prime example of the life-saving impacts that can be achieved through U.S. global health leadership, and I want to reiterate to Minister Guillaume today our commitment to work together in partnership with her and the Haitian government and people to build a stronger health system in Haiti.

**Questions for Minister Guillaume**

* What are the greatest health challenges that Haiti now faces more than five years after the tragic 2010 earthquake?
* What can the U.S. government and communities such as Miami do to help the efforts you are leading to create a more robust and effective health system?
* What lessons can we derive from Haiti to inform broader global health investments and interventions?