

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 21, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

We applaud your efforts to normalize relations with Cuba. While these are important first steps toward improving the lives of 11 million Cubans, we would like to further promote improvement of the United States relations with Cuba by reversing the damaging effects of the Cuban Medical Professional Parole Program (CMPP).

In light of Cuba's significant contributions to containing the deadly Ebola crisis in West Africa, as well as their long history of support in international crises, we believe that U.S. policy is in need of change. The CMPP, which seeks to facilitate defections by Cuban medical professionals serving overseas to the U.S., undermines our interests and weakens the ability of the international community to respond to critical health and humanitarian crises.

Since the 1960s, Cuban medical professionals have been an invaluable resource for millions around the world who otherwise would have no access to medical care, and their contributions to containing the current Ebola outbreak are undeniable.

Instead, this program exacerbates tensions between the U.S. and Cuba and undermines medical assistance from Cuba to poor countries. The policy is deeply unpopular throughout Latin America, where Cuban medical assistance is vitally needed for the region's poor, and is viewed as nothing more than a cynical attempt to weaken Cuba's government.

Cuban medical professionals who wish to emigrate to the U.S. should be treated as any other prospective Cuban immigrant under U.S. law. We welcome the immigration of Cuban nationals to the U.S., but not through a program that impedes the delivery of healthcare to the poor and which does not appear to advance U.S. domestic or international interests.

As President, you have full authority to end the CMPP at your discretion. We ask that you direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to cease applying discretionary parole authority to permit Cuban nationals eligible under the CMPP to come to the U.S.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



ROSA L. DeLAURO
Member of Congress



BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress



EMANUEL CLEAVER
Member of Congress



STEVE COHEN
Member of Congress



SAM FARR
Member of Congress



MIKE HONDA
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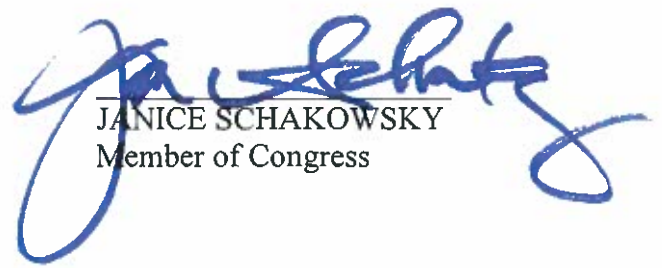
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