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Center for Democracy in the Americas Statement on Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act

Washington, DC – With Senators [Dorgan](#) and [Enzi](#) unveiling their Freedom to Travel to Cuba legislation (**S.428**) and its list of 20 cosponsors today, Sarah Stephens, executive director of the Center for Democracy in the Americas, released the following statement:

“This legislation attacks a core contradiction of US-Cuba policy: namely, that the right way to express our views on political freedom to Cubans is by stopping Americans from traveling to their island.

“President Obama is on the right track by restoring the rights of Cuban-Americans to visit and support their families, but we need to make clear that the constitutional right to travel belongs to all Americans no matter what their ethnic background or national origin might be.

“Under George Bush, we had ‘travel for nearly none’; under Barack Obama, we have progressed to ‘travel for some’; and under this legislation we can realize the goal of ‘travel for all’.

“All of our goals – for U.S.-Cuba policy, for regional diplomacy, for boosting the U.S. economy, and for advancing our values and remaking our nation’s image—are best served by replacing our policy of isolation with engagement starting with ‘travel for all’. We thank Senator Dorgan and his colleagues for introducing this legislation.”

The Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act - Prohibits the President from regulating or prohibiting travel to or from Cuba by U.S. citizens or legal residents or any of the transactions ordinarily incident to such travel, except in time of war or armed hostilities between the United States and Cuba, or of imminent danger to the public health or the physical safety of U.S. travelers.

A companion measure (**H.R. 874**) has been introduced by Representatives [Delahunt](#) and [Flake](#) with 121 cosponsors. Their press conference – with members of the Cuba Working Group and Cuban American leaders – takes place April 2.

The Center for Democracy in the Americas (CDA) is an independent, non-profit organization focused on reforming U.S. policy toward Latin America. The goals of our Cuba program include legalization of travel to Cuba for all Americans, and support for engagement leading to normalization. Learn more about CDA, and download its report, “9 Ways for US to Talk to Cuba and for Cuba to Talk to US,” by visiting our [website](#).

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