



National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA

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To the Members of the United States Congress:

The National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, representing approximately 45 million U.S. Christians in 100,000 local congregations, believes that now is the time for change in U.S. policy toward Cuba. For that reason, I write to express support for S.428 and H.R. 874, "The Freedom to Travel Act" that would end the ban on travel to Cuba for all Americans.

Because of a lengthy history and close relationships with churches in Cuba, NCC- member communions have experienced the impact of the travel ban both on our own work, and on the lives of the Cuban people. Restrictions on travel have curtailed our ability to send religious delegations to Cuba and severely diminished our capacity to accompany and support our Cuban brothers and sisters in Christ. The National Council of Churches strongly believes that the current restrictions on travel to Cuba are unfair and inappropriate, restrain religious freedom and reflect undue governmental interference in the exercise of religion.

As Cuban churches experience a period of robust growth, U.S. churches and ecumenical institutions should be present to support them as they establish themselves and expand their presence on the island. This moment is a fertile one for the Cuban religious community; their US counterparts must be allowed to re-establish a vigorous relationship with them, something that will only be accomplished by removing all obstructions to travel between the US and Cuba.

We must not miss this opportunity, and so we urge the Congress to pass S.428 and H.R. 874 and restore Americans' right to travel to Cuba.

Sincerely,

Michael Kinnamon
General Secretary