

ENCASA/US-CUBA

Emergency Network of Cuban American Scholars and Artists for Change in U.S.-Cuba Policy

March 2009

IN SUPPORT OF BILLS HR 874 AND S 428

On November 8, 2008 we issued a statement on Charting a New Course on U.S.-Cuba Relations.

We noted that “The next President of the United States, Barack Obama, will have the unprecedented opportunity to change a policy that for nearly half a century has been ineffective in improving the lives of the Cuban people and advancing the interests of the United States.”

We concluded with a call to initiate a historic course of action:

1. Immediately rescind the 2004 restrictions on Cuban American travel and remittances to the island.
2. Permit unrestricted travel by U.S. citizens to Cuba.
3. Signal to the Cuban government a willingness to enter into conversations with the purpose of exploring ways to normalize relations between the two countries for their mutual benefit and to improve the lives of the Cuban people.

We reiterate, as we said then, that these steps would be loudly applauded by Cubans, Cuban Americans, Americans, and Latin Americans—indeed, by the international community as a whole.

We are gratified to see renewed Congressional interest in changing the course of relations between the two countries. We support bills HR 874 and S 428, in the House and Senate, which would lift the restrictions on travel to Cuba.

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ENCASA/US-CUBA is a national network of more than 400 scholars, artists, writers, academics and professionals affiliated with universities in more than 150 cities in 37 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. For more information, see <http://www.encasa-us-cuba.org/>