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### **WOLA Applauds Senate Bill to End Ban on Travel to Cuba**

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**“Momentum for change in U.S.-Cuba policy is building,” said Geoff Thale, Program Director of the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), today.**

At a press conference on Capitol Hill, Senators Dorgan, Enzi, Dodd and Lugar introduced “The Freedom to Travel Act,” that would allow unrestricted travel to Cuba for all Americans.

**“These Senators recognize that our stale policy of isolation has failed,” said Thale. “Americans traveling to Cuba is not only in the interest of the United States, but is a right that should be enjoyed by all Americans,”**

Poll after poll has shown that the majority of Americans want an end to the travel ban. An October 2008 Zogby/Inter-American Dialogue poll found that 68% of likely voters believe all U.S. citizens should be allowed to travel to Cuba.

President Obama took an important initial step when he repealed Bush-era restrictions on Cuban-American family travel and remittances earlier this year. **“The Senate is now taking President Obama’s thinking to its logical conclusion in acting to ensure all Americans can travel to Cuba,”** said Thale.

S. 428 and its companion legislation in the House of Representatives, H.R. 874, are supported by a broad spectrum of constituencies including Cuban-Americans, the business and agriculture community, prominent U.S. human rights organizations, religious institutions and others.

**“These two bills respond to the will of the American people when it comes to U.S.-Cuba policy, said Thale. “It’s time for the U.S to heed that call and act decisively this year to end the ban on travel to Cuba for all Americans.”**

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