

CARLOS CURBELO
26TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

EDUCATION AND THE
WORKFORCE COMMITTEE

SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

1429 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2778

12851 SW 42ND STREET
SUITE 131
MIAMI, FL 33175
(305) 222-0160

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0926
November 19, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington DC 20001

Dear Mr. President:

I am concerned by the surge of Cuban nationals that have entered the United States since you announced your policy of unilateral concessions and unconditional engagement with the Castro dictatorship.

Since your December announcement, according to the Pew Research Center, there has been a 78 percent spike in Cubans arriving in the U.S. compared to the same period as last year. This statistic hides the untold number of Cubans that have been lost while making their dangerous escape from tyranny.

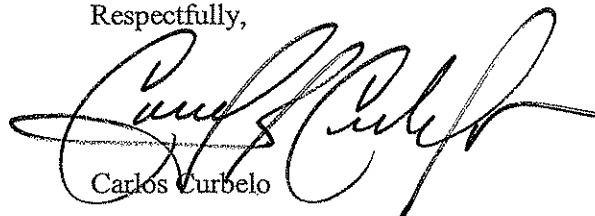
Furthermore, Cuban refugees are making the long trek through Central America and Mexico in an attempt to enter the United States through our southern border. Too many are at the mercy of villainous and reprehensible human trafficking rings. Costa Rican authorities have reported that the number of Cubans entering their country illegally has grown from 5,400 in 2014, to 15,391 thus far this year. The situation in Costa Rica, one of our close allies in the region, has been further exacerbated since the Nicaraguan government shut its southern border, stranding thousands.

These trends show no signs of letting up. It is now clear that many Cubans are responding to the idea of a normal relationship between their oppressors and the United States with fear and desperation, leading many of them to risk their safety and their lives to escape the prison that is Castro's Cuba. I am concerned about what this means for my community in South Florida.

The Castro regime has a well-documented record of not negotiating in good faith. I must ask, what plan do you have in place to effectively manage the influx of Cuban refugees and assist local and state governments in finding the resources necessary to handle this emerging crisis? What, if any, coordination has there been with Central American nations and Mexican authorities to end illegal trafficking rings?

I would appreciate your prompt response to this urgent matter of national security.

Respectfully,



Carlos Curbelo