



TAKE ACTION!!

Urge your Representative and Senators to Co-Sponsor *H.R. 874 and S. 428: The "Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act."*

February 13, 2009

ACT NOW

Please contact your Representative and Senators and ask them to co-sponsor (sign on to) **H.R. 874** in the House, or S. 428, **The Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act**. These bills, introduced by Rep. Delahunt (D-MA) and Rep. Flake (R-AZ) in the House and Senators Dorgan (D-ND), Enzi (R-WY), Dodd (D-CT) and Lugar (R-IN) in the Senate, would allow travel between the United States and Cuba without existing restrictions.

H.R. 874/S. 428 calls for lifting travel restrictions to Cuba for all Americans, restoring our right as citizens of the United States to travel freely, and takes a giant step in fostering engagement over isolation with all countries in the hemisphere.

USCCB POSITION

USCCB is well aware of the many limitations on the freedom of the Church and other parts of civil society in Cuba, of the routine violations of human rights, and limitations on freedom of speech and assembly. However, many decades of U.S. imposed isolation have not had any discernible impact on the current regime. As was the case before the fall of the Berlin Wall, engagement and cultural exchange can be agents of change, not isolation.

Along with the Cuban bishops, USCCB believes engagement with Cuba will do more than the current policy to promote positive social change and respect for human rights. As Bishop Howard J. Hubbard recently wrote in [a letter to Reps. Delahunt and Flake](#):

The USCCB has for many years consistently called for relaxing the sanctions against Cuba. These policies have largely failed to promote greater freedom, democracy and respect for human rights in Cuba.... Improving the lives of the Cuban people and encouraging democracy and human rights in Cuba will best be advanced through more, rather than less, contact between the Cuban and American people.

ACTION REQUESTED

Call the Capitol Switchboard number: (202) 224-3121. Ask for your Representative and urge him or her to co-sponsor H.R. 874 in the House. Using the same number, call your Senators and ask them to support S. 428 in the Senate. You will most likely speak to a staff person.

Please Give Us Your Feedback: Send USCCB a message at asmall@usccb.org or give us a call at (202) 541-3153 if you have an questions, or to tell us about your contact with your congressional office. For more background on Cuba, see usccb.org/sdwp/international/cuba.shtml.