

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 19, 2015

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary of Homeland Security
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Kerry and Secretary Johnson,

We have been contacted by over 200 individuals who have requested our assistance with applications under the Cuban Medical Professional Parole (CMPP) Program in Colombia. We strongly support the CMPP Program which allows Cuban medical professionals to escape abysmal salaries, poor working conditions, and constant surveillance forced on them by the Castro regime. However, we have been informed that the U.S. embassy in Colombia is experiencing significant delays in processing CMPP applications.

We have been informed that there are allegedly hundreds of medical professionals who fled to Colombia after escaping conscripted medical service in Venezuela. From Colombia, we understand that they are requesting visas to the United States under the CMPP Program. We also have been told that some medical professionals have been waiting for more than two hundred days for a response to their CMPP applications. However, according to the State Department and USCIS, the adjudication of the parole request should normally take up to four to six weeks unless delayed by security checks.

The CMPP Program is an essential tool for providing an avenue for Cuba's medical professionals to escape forced servitude to the Castro dictatorship, which sells their labor to other countries such as Venezuela and Brazil. The Castro regime profits handsomely from the forced labor, keeping as much as ninety percent of the doctors' salaries and earning approximately \$7.6 billion annually, according to German broadcaster *DW*. Furthermore, numerous accounts indicate that Cuban doctors' passports are confiscated while they are working in foreign countries, and the physicians are kept under constant surveillance by Castro regime handlers. For these reasons, the CMPP Program is essential to ensuring that Cuban doctors, who often work in abhorrent conditions with very little pay, have a means to escape their forced labor.

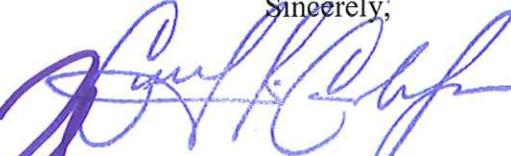
Accordingly, within all applicable rules and regulations, we respectfully request information clarifying how the Departments of State and Homeland Security are responding to

the Cuban doctors currently seeking U.S. entry from Colombia and request that you afford the applicants fair, expeditious review and adjudication of their CMPP applications.

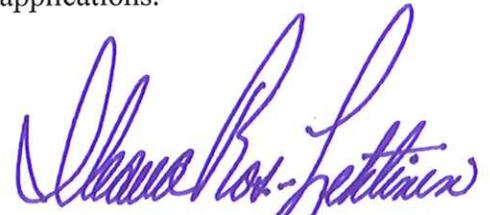
Sincerely,



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



Carlos Curbelo
Member of Congress



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress