



H.R. 4645: Travel Restriction Reform and Export Enhancement Act

Background:

Selling more U.S. food to put on the tables of Cuban families, and putting more American travelers on Cuban streets, will create more jobs for the U.S. economy and improve the lives of the Cuban people—providing them with more contact with Americans and our ideas. According the public opinion polls, the majority of Americans *and Cuban Americans* support allowing all Americans to travel to Cuba.

H.R.4645 would do the following:

- 1) Allow U.S citizens to travel to Cuba.
- 2) Eliminate the need for U.S. companies to go through banks in other countries to conduct agricultural sales to Cuba, along with the accompanying fees those banks charge. (Direct payment provision).
- 3) Require agricultural exports to Cuba to meet the same payment requirements as exports to other countries by requiring payment when the title of the shipment changes hands. (Payment in advance provision).

This bill will:

- Restore the fundamental right to travel that Americans enjoy with every other country in the world, including Iran and North Korea.
- Generate up to **5,500 new jobs** and increase sales of U.S. food and commodities to the Cuban people by a projected **\$336 million dollars**
- Advance the cause of human rights in Cuba by increasing contact between the American and Cuban people. Prominent human rights advocates in the U.S. and Cuba believe this, including:
 - The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
 - Human Rights Watch, Freedom House, Amnesty International
 - Prominent Cuban dissidents like Oswaldo Paya, Yoani Sanchez and Oscar Espinosa Chepe

Why this bill now?

- This is an incremental change in our policy toward Cuba that draws support from across the political spectrum.
- This does not end the embargo.
- This is not two-way trade.
- Groups as diverse as Pastors for Peace to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce all agree that this bill offers the right change at the right time.

Source: Texas A&M University, AgriLife Research, "Estimated Economic Impacts of the Travel Restriction Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2010"; Addendum, "Tourism and Agriculture in Cuba," March 22, 2010.

For more information, contact the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)

www.wola.org

CHANGE IN OUR INTEREST
Travel, Trade & Improved Relations with Cuba