

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

May 5, 2020

The Honorable Michael Pompeo  
Secretary of State  
Department of State  
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin  
Secretary of the Treasury  
Department of the Treasury  
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Pompeo and Secretary Mnuchin:

We write to urge you to immediately confirm that companies and humanitarians around the world are not precluded under U.S. law, regulation, or policy from providing medical equipment, food, other humanitarian items, and public health information, to Cuba.

Cuba, which already suffers from acute shortages of food and medicines, is facing a public health crisis due to COVID-19. Given Cuba's proximity to the United States, transmission of the virus there threatens the health and safety of not only Cubans but Americans and others in the Caribbean region, regardless of whatever measures the Cuban Government takes to try to limit its spread.

Whether or not these humanitarian items are technically prohibited under the U.S. embargo, we are aware of reports that foreign companies have been deterred from providing such items to Cuba, including to respond to COVID-19, due to burdensome regulatory and reporting requirements and fear of prosecution or penalty under U.S. law. This is dangerous and contrary to our longstanding tradition of not politicizing the delivery of humanitarian aid. In such an unprecedented emergency caused by a deadly virus that is so easily transmissible, public health and safety must take precedence.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this request and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

/s/ PATRICK LEAHY  
United States Senator

/s/ AMY KLOBUCHAR  
United States Senator

/s/ CHRISTOPHER A. COONS  
United States Senator

/s/ SHERROD BROWN  
United States Senator

/s/ TIM KAINE  
United States Senator

/s/ DIANNE FEINSTEIN  
United States Senator

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY  
United States Senator

/s/ JEFFREY A. MERKLEY  
United States Senator

/s/ TOM UDALL  
United States Senator

/s/ BERNARD SANDERS  
United States Senator

/s/ ELIZABETH WARREN  
United States Senator

/s/ RON WYDEN  
United States Senator

/s/ JAMES P. MCGOVERN  
Member of Congress

/s/ KATHY CASTOR  
Member of Congress

/s/ BARBARA LEE  
Member of Congress

/s/ KAREN BASS  
Member of Congress

/s/ NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ  
Member of Congress

/s/ PETER WELCH  
Member of Congress

/s/ JARED HUFFMAN  
Member of Congress

/s/ RO KHANNA  
Member of Congress

/s/ PRAMILA JAYAPAL  
Member of Congress

/s/ JAMIE RASKIN  
Member of Congress

/s/ RAÚL M. GRIJALVA  
Member of Congress

/s/ STEVE COHEN  
Member of Congress

/s/ MARK POCAN  
Member of Congress

/s/ BETTY MCCOLLUM  
Member of Congress

/s/ HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.  
Member of Congress