

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
United States Secretary of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Ave NW
Washington, DC 20016

RECEIVED

By ESEC at 11:52 am, Nov 01, 2022

November 1, 2022

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

We write to request that you reinstate the Cuban Medical Professional Parole (CMPP) Program. Established under President Bush in 2006, the CMPP rescued doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals effectively held hostage by the Castro regime.

Cuba continues to champion the practice of outsourcing these skilled individuals to countries that pay cash for their services — cash that is directly funneled into the hands of the regime. The Cuban medical mission is a key source of revenue for the Díaz-Canel government, generating up to seven billion dollars annually to fund further human rights abuses.

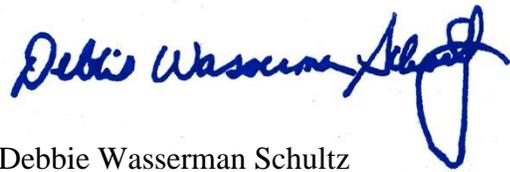
These medical personnel have been forced to work in foreign countries under prohibitive conditions that include restriction of movement, surveillance, coercion, retaliation against family members, and wage garnishing. Participants are often coerced into this program by authoritarian tactics, including withholding of passports.

According to the U.S. State Department, Cuba's international medical missions are a form of human trafficking and modern-day slavery. Cuba is currently ranked Tier 3 on the State Department's 2021 Trafficking in Persons Report, the lowest possible ranking reserved for those countries violating international trafficking agreements.

The CMPP, which was terminated in January of 2017, allowed Cuban Medical professionals on overseas assignments in third countries to apply for parole at U.S. embassies or consulates if they were (1) of Cuban nationality or citizenship, (2) a medical professional conscripted to work in a foreign country under the direction of the Government of Cuba, and (3) not otherwise ineligible for entry into the United States. In addition, the applicant's spouse and unmarried children could also qualify for parole.

We urge you to reinstate the Cuban Medical Professional Parole Program. This would further demonstrate the Administration's strong commitment to democratic values and human rights in Cuba. The CMPP provided a refuge for doctors who were forced into service by the Cuban government, and restoring the program provides a vital pathway to escape this form of enslavement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie Wasserman Schultz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Albio Sires". The signature is cursive and elegant, with a long, sweeping tail.

Albio Sires
Member of Congress



**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**

December 8, 2022

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Schultz:

Thank you for your November 1, 2022 letter to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recommending the reinstatement of the Cuban Medical Professional Parole (CMPP) program. Secretary Mayorkas asked that I respond on his behalf, and I apologize for the delay in my response.

This Administration continues to expand access to legal, safe, and orderly pathways for Cuban nationals to travel to the United States. In June 2022, President Biden joined leaders from across the Western Hemisphere in presenting the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection at the Summit of the Americas. One of four key pillars of the Declaration is the expansion of legal pathways, including pathways for Cuban nationals.

Specifically, the Administration confirmed in the Declaration that the United States would resume operations for the Cuban Family Reunification Parole (CFRP) program. CFRP provides a legal pathway to the United States for certain Cuban beneficiaries of approved family-based immigrant petitions. In August 2022, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) started mailing notices to petitioners of pending CFRP cases that were awaiting interviews, informing them that USCIS is scheduling interviews for CFRP beneficiaries at the U.S. Embassy in Havana. Additionally, the U.S. Department of State (DOS) plans to fully resume immigrant visa processing at U.S. Embassy Havana in early 2023. Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs Rena Bitter and I led an interagency delegation to Havana from November 8 to 10, 2022, where we reviewed consular and USCIS operations and met with officers and local staff to observe first-hand the resumption of CFRP case processing.

While resuming family-based processing will help ensure a legal, safe, and orderly option for thousands of Cuban nationals each year, I appreciate your recommendation to reinstate the CMPP program specifically. Currently, DHS does not intend to restart CMPP. Terminating the CMPP program was part of the ongoing normalization of relations between the Governments of the United States and Cuba that resulted in critical migration agreements between two respective countries. Accordingly, I shared your recommendation with my colleagues at DOS.

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz

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There are approximately 450 following-to-join beneficiary family members of CMPP parolees who were approved and pending travel document issuance in Havana when the USCIS office in Havana closed and DOS drew down staffing at U.S. Embassy Havana due to unexplained health incidents in 2017. While DHS does not intend to restart CMPP at this time, USCIS will contact those following-to-join CMPP beneficiaries this fiscal year to continue processing their travel documents.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. Rep. Sires, the cosigner of your letter, will receive a separate, identical response. Should you require any additional assistance, please have your staff contact the USCIS Office of Legislative Affairs at (240) 721-3801.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ur M. Jaddou", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ur M. Jaddou
Director