



## Opposition to Trump Cuba Policy Reversal

### 1. Trump's Imminent Cuba Problem

Christopher Sabatini (June 15, 2017)

[https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/15/opinion/trump-cuba-embargo-obama.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/15/opinion/trump-cuba-embargo-obama.html?_r=0)

Op-ed that references Pew Poll that shows that more than 75% of Americans support opening with Cuba.

### 2. MEDICC Urges President Trump to Keep the Door Open to Cuba

MEDICC (June 15, 2017)

<http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?m=1101907787578&ca=54e13799-8178-4252-a749-f24df974ab20>

MEDICC emphasizes the importance of travel, trade, and diplomatic relations in the name of medical cooperation.

### 3. Leading Conservative Organizations Urge Trump Not to Reverse Cuba Policy

Engage Cuba (June 14, 2017)

<https://www.engagecuba.org/press-releases/2017/6/15/leading-conservative-groups-urgingtrump-against-a-cuba-rollback>

Associated Groups: Americans for Tax Reform, Campaign for Liberty, Center for Individual Freedom, Digital Liberty, Free the People, FreedomWorks, Property Rights Alliance, Taxpayers Protection Alliance, and Tech Freedom.

### 4. Oxfam urges U.S. to end embargo on struggling Cuba

Reuters (June 14, 2017)

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-cuba-usa-oxfam-idUSKCN0ZU2CJ>

The director of Oxfam broke the global aid agency's longtime silence on the U.S. trade embargo on Cuba, urging the American Congress to lift it "sooner rather than later" given the island's mounting economic woes.

*"Cuba needs to engage in the global economy and the embargo cuts them out. We are going to be calling for a lifting of that embargo and normalizing relations sooner rather than later."* - Winnie Byanyima, Director of Oxfam

### 5. An Open Letter in Support of Continuing Improved Relations with Cuba

The Chronicle of Higher Education (June 13, 2017)

<http://www.chronicle.com/blogs/letters/an-open-letter-in-support-of-continuing-improved-relations-with-cuba/>

A brief open letter to President Trump asking him to consider improving relations with Cuba signed by educators at universities across the United States and Latin America.

**6. US/Cuba: Don't Reverse Cuba Policy**

Human Rights Watch (June 13, 2017)

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/06/13/us/cuba-dont-reverse-cuba-policy>

*"International pressure on the Cuban government is needed to help create conditions for change. But to be effective, this should be multilateral pressure brought alongside other governments in the region."* - Daniel Wilkinson, managing director for the Americas at Human Rights Watch

**7. Open Cuba's Market to U.S. Farmers**

Op-Ed by Sen. John Boozman and Rep. Rick Crawford (June 13, 2017)

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/open-cubas-market-to-u-s-farmers-1497396058>

Wallstreet Journal piece that emphasizes the benefit to agricultural growers in the United States through trade with Cuba.

**8. CDA Urges Trump administration to heed calls for engagement with Cuba**

Center for Democracy in the Americas (June 13, 2017)

<http://democracyinamericas.org/press-release-cda-urges-trump-administration-heed-calls-engagement-cuba/>

**9. Race to influence Trump on Cuba policy heats up**

Miami Herald (June 13, 2017)

<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/americas/cuba/article156003664.html>

*"The fact that Obama's approach hasn't led to political reform in Cuba after just a few years isn't reason to return to a policy that proved a costly failure over many decades. The previous administration was right to reject a policy that hurt ordinary Cubans and did nothing to advance human rights."* - Daniel Wilkinson, managing director for the Americas at Human Rights Watch

**10. Open letter to Ivanka Trump from 55 Cuban women entrepreneurs**

June 13, 2017

PDF: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/55806c54e4b0651373f7968a/t/593eecb9cd0f683cb1f08d3b/1497296057661/Cuentapropista+Letter+Trump.pdf>

A group of Cuban women entrepreneurs appeal to Ivanka's history of encouraging entrepreneurship for women around the world to express fears that President Trump's Cuba Policy may be *"headed backward, in turn threatening our economic*

*livelihoods and the overall well-being of Cubans on and off the island.”*

#### **11. Amnesty International Statement**

Engage Cuba (June 12, 2017)

<https://medium.com/@amnestyusa/your-trip-to-havana-might-have-to-wait-what-trumps-policies-for-cuba-will-mean-for-human-rights-4afb8f7b7b0b>

*"Ironically, the Trump administration cites the Cuban government's human rights abuses as justification for policy adjustment. For decades, Amnesty International has documented human rights violations in Cuba and also has called for lifting the U.S. embargo. Amnesty International's 2009 report emphasized how the trade and financial sanctions affect healthcare in Cuba."*

#### **12. Poll: Majority of Republicans support Cuba travel, trade**

The Hill (June 12, 2017)

<http://thehill.com/policy/transportation/337419-poll-majority-of-republicans-support-cuba-travel-trade>

According to a poll conducted by Engage Cuba, 6 out of 10 Republican voters agree with policies that ease travel and trade restrictions with the island.

*"The overwhelming support of the American people for continuing this policy of Cuba engagement should serve as a warning flag to President Trump. Such a reversal would hurt American jobs, add burdensome regulations on the business community and would be a huge blow to the Cuban people whose lives have improved because of these changes, including the hundreds of thousands of Cubans who have started their own private businesses." - James Williams, President Engage Cuba*

*"If President Trump wants a 'better deal' for the Cuban people, it would be a shame if he rolls back our policy before he even comes to the table. If the president is willing to negotiate with Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey and the Philippines, why not Cuba?" - James Williams, President Engage Cuba*

#### **13. Airbnb backs Cuba engagement as Trump reviews relations**

The Hill (June 8, 2017)

<http://thehill.com/policy/technology/336969-airbnb-backs-cuba-engagement-as-trump-reviews-relations>

In a letter addressed to Rep. Tom Emmer (R – Minn.) the company thanked Emmer and other Republican members of the Cuba working group for their efforts in encouraging U.S. engagement with Cuba. The letter also emphasized the role the company has had in supporting livelihood on the island writing, *"In a country where average workers earn \$30 per month, the additional income generated via Airbnb is an economic lifeline for individual Cuban people and their families."*

#### **14. U.S.- Cuba Policy Looms at Aviation Industry Conference**

Reuters (June 7, 2017)

<https://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2017/06/07/world/americas/07reuters-airlines-iata-cuba.html>

The aviation industry, which stands to make nothing on millions of investment into travel between the U.S. and Cuba, sought to expand service to Havana with JetBlue, Southwest, Delta, United, and American Airlines all requesting increased frequency on various Havana routes.

*"Restricting the network of aviation and access to Cuba would be bad news for aviation. Generally we welcome the extension of access to any country by plane."* - IATA Director General Alexandre de Juniac

**15. Luxury Hotels Arrive in Cuba Despite Fears Trump May Hurt Tourism Boom**

Reuters (June 7, 2017)

<https://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2017/06/07/world/europe/07reuters-cuba-tourism.html>

*"We hope that trade and travel restrictions eased by the Obama administration will not be tightened again by the current U.S. government."* - Alessandro Benedetti, a marketing director at Kempinski

**16. Undoing All the Good Work on Cuba**

New York Times (June 5, 2017)

[https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/05/opinion/donald-trump-cuba-barack-obama.html?\\_r=1](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/05/opinion/donald-trump-cuba-barack-obama.html?_r=1)

Provides summary of opposition coalitions to upcoming Trump Cuba policy in addition to analysis of U.S. states that will be economically affected by restrictions on trade.

**17. Trump Reversing Cuba Policy Would Cost \$6.6 Billion, Over 12k Jobs**

Engage Cuba (June 1, 2017)

<https://www.engagecuba.org/press-releases/2017/6/1/trump-reversing-cuba-policy-would-cost-66-billion-over-12k-jobs>

Engage Cuba's press release is especially unique because it includes a breakdown of their economic impact analysis of Cuba Policy rollback.

*"How sadly ironic and short-sighted it would be if, soon after singing the praises of the repressive leaders of Russia, Egypt, Turkey and Saudi Arabia, President Trump were to return to a failed 55-year-old policy of sanctions and ultimatums against tiny Cuba."* - Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT)

**18. Cuba Rollback Could Cost Trump on Jobs Front**

Foreign Policy (May 30, 2017)

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/05/30/cuba-rollback-could-cost-trump-on-jobs-front/>

The article contains several useful quotes in opposition to Cuba rollback:

*"There's a cost to that reversal, and that cost is U.S. jobs."* - Jason Marczak, director of the Latin America Economic Growth Initiative at the Atlantic Council's Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center

*"If our folks grow it, I want to sell it. They eat in Cuba as well."* - Sonny Purdue, Secretary of Agriculture in Trump Administration

**19. Ret. U.S. Military Flag Officers Urge White House to Expand Cuba Engagement to Strengthen U.S. National Security**

American Security Project (April 20, 2017)

<http://www.americansecurityproject.org/aspcubastatement1/>

U.S. Military Flag Officers pen open letter to Lt. General McMaster encouraging engagement with Cuba in the name of national security.

*"If we fail to engage economically and politically, it is certain that China, Russia, and other entities whose interests are contrary to the United States' will rush into the vacuum. We have an opportunity now to shape and fill a strategic void."*

**20. A Memo to President Trump and His Incoming Administration**

Cuba Study Group

[http://www.cubastudygroup.org/index.cfm/files/serve?File\\_id=a7803c62-41db-438b-8fc1-f6ee260dcfef](http://www.cubastudygroup.org/index.cfm/files/serve?File_id=a7803c62-41db-438b-8fc1-f6ee260dcfef)

Co-sponsored by WOLA, the Cuba study group released this memo encouraging the incoming Trump Administration to engage with Cuba.