

Opp

**AMENDMENT TO FINANCIAL SERVICES
APPROPRIATIONS BILL
OFFERED BY MR. DIAZ-BALART OF FLORIDA**

Page 128, after line 5, insert the following (and re-designate the subsequent section accordingly):

1 SEC. 901. Any amendments made after January 19,
2 2009, to the regulations set forth in sections
3 515.560(a)(1), 515.560(c)(4)(i), 515.561, and 515.570 of
4 title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, are hereby repealed,
5 and such regulations are restored and shall be carried out
6 as in effect on such date, notwithstanding any guidelines,
7 opinions, letters, Presidential directives, or agency prac-
8 tices relating to such regulations issued or carried out
9 after such date: *Provided*, That any references in such sec-
10 tion 515.561 to the regulations set forth in section
11 515.560(c) of such Code shall be considered to be ref-
12 erences to such regulations as in effect on January 19,
13 2009.



Summary: This language removes the Obama administration's changes to regulations regarding family travel to Cuba and family remittances to Cuban nationals, and replaces them with the regulations that were in place during the Bush administration.

Specifically, with this amendment, "family" would be limited to immediate family members who could travel once per every three years, for a maximum of 14 days. Remittances to family members would be capped at up to \$300 per quarter.

Obama's current regulations allow unlimited family travel and unlimited family remittances, and define "family" much too broadly as including "any individual related to that person by blood, marriage, or adoption who is no more than three generations removed from that person or from a common ancestor of that person."

Washington Post

Cuba's imprisonment of an American is a rebuke to Obama

Friday, January 22, 2010; A20

A FRIEND of Alan P. Gross, the veteran development consultant from Potomac who has been jailed without charge in Cuba, says that Mr. Gross's mistake may have been "not seeing anything wrong with what he was doing." If so, we can sympathize. Mr. Gross was in Cuba to help several Jewish community groups gain access to the Internet, so that they could use sites such as Wikipedia and communicate with each other and with Jewish organizations abroad, according to his employer, Bethesda-based Development Alternatives Inc., and other sources familiar with his work. He reportedly supplied the groups with laptops and satellite equipment for Internet connections.

For this the 60-year-old contractor was arrested Dec. 4 and has been held ever since by Cuba's communist regime, which has accused him of conducting an espionage operation. Only in the ancient, crumbling regime of the Castro brothers could this ridiculous charge be leveled. That's because Cuba is virtually alone, even among authoritarian countries, in trying to prevent most of its population from using the Internet even for nonpolitical purposes.

A State Department democracy program has tried to help Cubans join the 21st century by distributing laptops and cellphones and providing satellite Internet connections. Mr. Gross, who has worked in more than 50 countries during the past 25 years, was assisting with this effort. Yet for this, Cuban National Assembly President Ricardo Alarcón, another of the regime's dinosaurs, connected Mr. Gross to "agents, torturers and spies that are contracted as part of the privatization of war," adding "this is a man who was contracted to do work for American intelligence services."

It's worth noting that Mr. Gross's arrest came just two weeks after President Obama responded by e-mail to questions from Cuba's renowned blogger, Yoani Sánchez. Mr. Obama praised Ms. Sánchez for her efforts to "empower fellow Cubans to express themselves through the use of technology." He also said that he was waiting for some kind of reciprocation for the several conciliatory gestures he has made to the Castro regime, including an easing of travel restrictions.

Havana's answer has been the arrest and continued imprisonment of Mr. Gross. For the Obama administration, the message is crystal-clear: Fidel and Raúl Castro have no interest in easing repression or in improving relations with the United States. For Congress, which is considering legislation authorizing another liberalization of travel restrictions, the correct response is also obvious: Cuba should be told that no action will be considered while Mr. Gross remains in prison.