

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 6, 2019

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I would first like to thank you for your prompt and forceful action to sanction Cuba for its repressive policies toward its own citizens, and to counter its destructive influence throughout the hemisphere. Cuba continues to be the most powerful force propping up Nicolas Maduro as he starves and kills his own people in Venezuela. The Cuban Regime is a willing and active participant in Maduro's genocide, and the United States is right to take every action possible to cut off ties with Cuba.

Today, you have a historic opportunity to take additional steps in the fight for freedom and human rights. I urge you to issue an Executive Order to confirm the State Department's recognition of Cuba's overseas medical missions as international human trafficking. In doing so, you will reaffirm the United States' support for human rights, and put the Cuban government at risk of losing the billions of dollars it receives from this repressive action. Limiting the flow of money to Cuba is critical to freeing Venezuela and protecting the national security of the United States.

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) played an unprecedented and illegal role in profiting from the shipment of Cuban doctors to Brazil. PAHO facilitated this human trafficking scheme, collecting over \$1 billion from Brazil as compensation for the Cuban doctors' services, which it then paid to Cuba. The program is nothing but a scheme to funnel money to the regime and oppress the rights of Cuban doctors. Documents show that previous Brazilian governments paid PAHO at least \$1.5 billion for the doctors, which then turned around and sent 85% of the funds to Havana. PAHO pocketed 5% for itself, leaving the doctors with 10%, or less.

I am aware of the good work done by PAHO in promoting health in countries throughout the hemisphere, but their involvement in this scheme and the ongoing repression of the Cuban people is inexcusable. An Executive Order revoking PAHO's immunities in the International Organization Immunities Act, 22 U.S.C. §288 ("IOIA") for its actions in Brazil would send a very powerful message that Cuba is sustaining its totalitarian government by violating international law.

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As Americans, we understand the value and importance of freedom in our everyday lives, and it is our duty to support and stand up for those oppressed by dictators and denied the right to live freely. I appreciate your consideration of this important action in the fight for freedom and democracy in Latin America.

Sincerely,



Rick Scott
United States Senator



Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator