

Chicago Committee to Normalize Relations with Cuba

August 24, 2020

Dear Alderman,

Now is the time for Chicago to join other cities in the United States by declaring:

All In for Saving Lives!

All In for Normalizing Relations with Cuba!

While the pandemic has been raging across the U.S., the island nation of Cuba has developed important anti-viral medicines including interferon Alfa 2b (IFNrec), which have already contributed to saving lives in Cuba and in many other countries around the world. The restrictions on Alfa 2b and other medicines developed in Cuba needs to be lifted so they can be included in U.S. clinical trials. This is just one of the many reasons the Resolution to Normalize Relations with Cuba should be passed now in the Chicago City Council.

Just last month, Illinois Congressmen Jesus “Chuy” Garcia and Danny Davis, Rev. Jesse Jackson, renowned actors Danny Glover and Ed Asner, and legendary signer Dionne Warwick, all called for an end to the Embargo on Cuba during the “Concert for Cuba”. Over four million viewers tuned in to hear these and other speakers and musicians salute the Cuban medical workers who have selflessly traveled the world to fight Covid19. The six-hour international, star-studded event was produced by Chicago’s own HotHouse. Representative Bobby Rush also recently introduced Congressional budget bill amendments that would roll back some of the harshest sanctions on Cuba allowing for the sale, delivery, transport of food and medicine to Cuba, as well as the sending of family remittances to Cuba.

Last year our campaign to pass a Chicago City Council Resolution to Normalize Relations with Cuba was launched with a hearing at the Trinity UCC Church. To date, eleven Chicago Aldermen (Sawyer, Beale, Rodriguez, Sigcho Lopez, Rodriguez-Sanchez, Vasquez, Cappleman, Osterman, Martin and Hadden) have been visited by hundreds of constituents and subsequently agreed to support the attached Resolution.

We ask you to add your name in support of this Resolution The brutal embargo against Cuba not only causes hardship for the people of Cuba, but also denies Chicagoans and all US people the tremendous advances of the Cuban medical system. Further, it stifles important exchanges in culture and academia, and limits the kinds of benefits enjoyed in normal diplomatic relations between sovereign nations. Sixty years of the embargo and blockade have caused immeasurable suffering and it is time for a change. Global collaboration in the face of the pandemic is the only path to saving lives. Now is the time for Chicago to join the overwhelming majority in the world in favor of normalizing relations with Cuba by passing this Resolution.

Sincerely,

Steering Committee

Marilyn McKenna

Marguerite Horberg

Otis Cunningham

Sarah Staggs