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OPPOSE McCOLLUM AMENDMENT (#51) TO CUT FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY BROADCASTS TO CUBA

Dear Fellow Freshmen,

Today an amendment will be offered by Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN) to eliminate funding for U.S. radio and television broadcasts to Cuba, also known as Radio and TV Marti. **Please oppose this amendment.**

The Marti broadcasts have followed in the tradition of Voice of America, Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty, and Radio Free Asia by providing uncensored news and information to the captive island nation of Cuba.

As many of you are aware, Cuba has been designated as an official sponsor of state terrorism by our own government. The Castro dictatorship demonstrated its terrorist nature in 1996 when it murdered four American citizens flying in international air space.

As we debate this amendment today, the Castro dictatorship is holding an American citizen hostage. Alan Gross, who was on a humanitarian visit to Cuba, has been jailed by the Castro regime for over a year without due process of law.

Recent events in Egypt have demonstrated the importance of the free flow of information to spark democratic activism.

After 52 years of a totalitarian communist dictatorship in Cuba, now is not the moment to give the Castro regime a unilateral concession such as the elimination of American broadcasts promoting freedom and democracy.

I respectfully ask my freshman colleagues to stand with the Cuban people against Castro's terrorist dictatorship on this issue. Please support America's broadcasting in support of liberty and vote NO on the McCollum Amendment (No. 51). Thank You.

Sincerely,

David Rivera