

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1391

To authorize the President to permit the sale and export of food, medicines,  
and medical equipment to Cuba.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 6, 1997

Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. LEAHY) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing,  
and Urban Affairs

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## A BILL

To authorize the President to permit the sale and export  
of food, medicines, and medical equipment to Cuba.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act shall be known as the “Cuban Women and  
5       Children Humanitarian Relief Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds that—

8               (1) the outright ban on the sale of American  
9       foodstuffs to Cuba has contributed to serious nutri-

1 tional deficits, particularly among pregnant women,  
2 leading to low birth-weight babies;

3 (2) the embargo on trade with Cuba is severely  
4 restricting Cuba's access to water treatment chemi-  
5 cals and spare parts for its water supply, causing re-  
6 ductions in the supply of safe drinking water and  
7 the increased incidence of water-borne diseases;

8 (3) the most specialized medical supplies are in  
9 short supply or entirely absent from some Cuban  
10 clinics as a result of the United States embargo;

11 (4) although informational materials have been  
12 exempt from the United States trade embargo since  
13 1988, in practice very little medical information is  
14 exchanged between the United States and Cuba due  
15 to travel restrictions, currency regulations, and ship-  
16 ping difficulties; and

17 (5) current embargoes against Iran, Libya, and  
18 Iraq do not ban the sale of food to those countries  
19 or restrict medical commerce.

20 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

21 It should be the policy of the United States to permit  
22 the sale and export of food, medicines, and medical equip-  
23 ment to the Cuban people.

1 **SEC. 4. AUTHORITY.**

2       Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the  
3 President is authorized to permit the sale and export of  
4 food, medicines, and medical equipment to Cuba by any  
5 person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

6 **SEC. 5. NOTIFICATION OF CONGRESS AND THE PUBLIC.**

7       The President shall notify Congress of any decision  
8 to exercise the authority of section 4 and shall, at the time  
9 the decision is made, cause such decision to be published  
10 in the Federal Register, together with such regulations as  
11 the President determines may be necessary to ensure that  
12 food, medicines, and medical equipment sold to Cuba  
13 under this Act will primarily be consumed or otherwise  
14 utilized by the people of Cuba.

15 **SEC. 6. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

16       Two years after the date that the President first exer-  
17 cises the authority of section 4, the President shall submit  
18 a report to the Speaker of the House of Representatives  
19 and the President of the Senate containing an assessment  
20 of the level, composition, and end users of any food, medi-  
21 cine, or medical equipment sold to Cuba during the pre-  
22 vious two years by any person subject to the jurisdiction  
23 of the United States.

