

May 24, 2022 Brookline, Massachusetts Annual Town Meeting
ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will adopt the following resolution:

Calling for an end to the US's embargo of Cuba

WHEREAS, since March 14, 1958, the United States has maintained against Cuba the most long-lasting trade embargo in our nation's history; and

WHEREAS, on December 17, 2014, US President Barack Obama and former Cuban President Raul Castro agreed to reestablish diplomatic relations and cooperation between the two nations on various matters of mutual interest; and

WHEREAS, despite executive decisions by President Obama to relax some prohibitive regulations, large portions of the embargo pertaining to trade and travel persist; and

WHEREAS, full restoration of trade and travel between the two countries would be of great benefit to both Cuba and the US, including with regards to education, healthcare, economic opportunities, the arts, tourism, and sports – as well as for biotechnological and medical research, which holds heightened relevance during this age of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, a number of Boston-area institutions have had many collaborations and exchanges with Cuba – including Tufts Medical Center, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston University, Boston Medical Center, the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Harvard Medical School, and the Harvard School of Public Health; and

WHEREAS, the Boston-area is home to some of the leading public health, medical, and academic institutions in the United States. Entities that could greatly benefit from the restoration of trade with Cuba because of the importation of Cuban products like life-saving medicines Herberprot-p and CIMAvax, and – more generally – scientific, biopharmaceutical, medical, and public collaboration; and

WHEREAS there is growing national awareness and work towards similar Cuban cooperative efforts in over 30 other cities, states, and unions – including neighboring Cambridge – calling for the lifting of the embargo on Cuba and collaboration on medical and scientific research and exchange; and

WHEREAS Brookline's Federal level representation in the US House of Representatives has changed since Town Meeting in Spring 2016 passed a resolution calling for an end to the US's embargo of Cuba.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT that Brookline Town Meeting finds that travel restrictions and the embargo are detrimental to the interests of the citizens of Brookline, the United States, and Cuba.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Brookline Town Meeting urges the immediate restoration of engagement with Cuba which President Barack Obama initiated through the repeal of restrictive regulations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Brookline Town Meeting encourages local medical, health care, scientific, academic, and pharmaceutical institutions to actively explore collaboration with their Cuban counterparts in knowledge transfer and joint collaboration in public health prevention methods, innovation treatments, and the development of new treatments, vaccines, and protocols; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Brookline Town Meeting appeals to the Massachusetts State Legislature and the Governor to actively pursue such exchanges, knowledge transfers, and

collaboration – including, but not limited to, efforts to further joint development of drugs and treatment protocols in pursuit of the COVID-19 virus and other communicable diseases; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Brookline Town Meeting strongly urges Representative Jake Auchincloss, and Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey, to propose and pass legislation that will finally end the unsuccessful and harmful 60-year-old economic, financial, and commercial embargo – and lift the travel restrictions on US citizens and residents to Cuba, and Cuban citizens to the United States.