

**ITEM B.115**  
**FOR ACTION**

<i>FOR PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE USE ONLY</i>			
	A. Finance		E. Corporate Property, Legal, Finance
X	B. Justice		F. PC(USA), A Corporation
	C. Leadership		G. Audit
	D. Worshipping Communities		H. Executive Committee
			J. Board Nominating & Governance Subcommittee
			P. Plenary

**Subject:**           **Comment to the 221<sup>st</sup> GA (2014) - Overture 041 “On Removing Cuba from the List of State Sponsors of Terrorism – From the Presbytery of Long Island.”**

**Comment to the 221<sup>st</sup> GA (2014) - Overture 048 “On Lifting All Travel Restrictions for U.S. Citizens Traveling To Cuba – From the Presbytery of St. Augustine.”**

**Recommendation:**

**That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board approve the following comment on Overture 041 “On Removing Cuba from the List of State Sponsors of Terrorism – From the Presbytery of Long Island” and Overture 048 “On Lifting All Travel Restrictions for U.S. Citizens Traveling To Cuba – From the Presbytery of St. Augustine.”**

**Comment:**

The Presbyterian Mission Agency has been engaged in mission with church partners in Cuba since 1890. <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/global/cuba/> In 1967 the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba (IPRC) was established as an autonomous denomination. Nine presbyteries have established partnerships with the IPRC. Travel restrictions and sanctions make these partnerships more difficult.

In February 2014, the Office of Public Witness, together with Church World Service and the Latin America Working Group, hosted a delegation of ecumenical leaders from Cuba in Washington, DC. The purpose of the visit was to advocate for normalized U.S. relations with Cuba. Removing Cuba from the List of State Sponsors of Terrorism and lifting all restrictions for both U.S. and Cuba travel were among the issues discussed in the joint deliberations with the State Department and Congressional Offices. <http://www.pcusa.org/news/2014/3/18/cuban-church-leaders-press-normalization-us/>