

## **Florida lawmakers against Cuba pact**

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### **Body**

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**Florida** Republican Reps. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Lincoln Diaz-Balart have denounced talk of a possible immigration **pact** between **Cuba** and the United States, and called for a multilateral trade embargo instead.  
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In recent months, Cuban leader Fidel Castro has legalized foreign currency and also said he would allow Cuban exiles to visit **Cuba** in greater numbers.

The steps have fueled talk of an immigration **pact**, but Ros-Lehtinen and Diaz-Balart complain that normalized relations between the two countries would come at the wrong time.

"We believe that any conversations which take place will clearly benefit only the dictator and will not be in the interest of freedom-loving Americans or freedom-loving patriots anywhere in the world," Ros-Lehtinen said at a Wednesday news conference.

Those opposed to the **pact** say if it is implemented, Cubans would lose their political asylum status, thousands residing in the U.S. would become deportable and those entering through Guantanamo Naval Base, the sea or third countries would be returned to **Cuba**.

### **Classification**

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**Person:** ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN (93%); LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART (73%); FIDEL CASTRO (58%)

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