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Maria Echeveste

is ~~taking~~ care
of

1/26/00

cc

SHEILA JACKSON LEE
18TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEES:

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION AND CLAIMS
RANKING DEMOCRATIC MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPACE AND AERONAUTICS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
410 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
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DISTRICT OFFICE:
1919 SMITH STREET, SUITE 1180
THE GEORGE "MICKEY" LELAND FEDERAL BUILDING
HOUSTON, TX 77002
713-865-0050

January 25, 2000

William Jefferson Clinton
The President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

VIA FAX AND HAND
DELIVERED

Elian
File

Dear President Clinton:

As the Ranking Member of the House Subcommittee on Immigration, I am writing to applaud the decision that has been made by the Department of Justice to affirm the INS decision to act within the best interests of the child in the case of Elian Gonzalez. I also applaud the decision of the INS that compels the Miami relatives of Elian to bring him to a neutral site so that he may reunite with his grandmothers.

As you know, today I have had the opportunity to meet with Elian's two grandmothers, Raquel Rodriguez and Mariela Quintana, and Members of Congress to discuss his safe return back to Cuba. By meeting with these endearing women, I want to ensure the enforcement of the INS' previous decision. It is imperative that we end the political posturing surrounding this young boy's plight. Elian Gonzalez is not an orphan and his father has not been proven to be unfit and no abuse of Elian has been found that would normally deny a natural parent custody of his child.

You may also be aware that there are several bills in the Congress that would make Elian a citizen or a legal permanent resident of the United States. After meeting with the grandmothers, I have learned that their wish is for their precious grandson to return to Cuba to be with their natural father and them. I urge you to veto any bill that would make this young boy a citizen or legal permanent resident. I also think that it is important that you meet with these women and look in their eyes, and feel their emotions in order for you to fully appreciate this issue.

I am enclosing a letter from the grandmothers given to me today directed to you Mr. President asking for your help in returning Elian to his family in Cuba.

2

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

SJL:lcb

Enclosure: Letter to President Clinton from the Grandmothers of Elian Gonzales

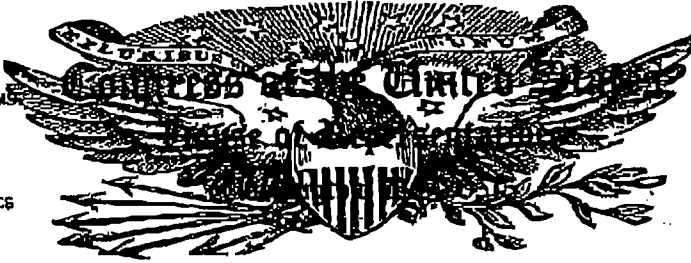
SHEILA JACKSON LEE

18TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEES:

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
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 RANKING DEMOCRATIC MEMBER
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 202-225-3816

DISTRICT OFFICE:
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 THE GEORGE "MICKY" LELAND FEDERAL BUILDING
 HOUSTON, TX 77002
 713-655-0050

CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE

CC: MARIA

410 Cannon House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515
 Phone: (202) 225-3816
 Telefax: (202) 225-3317

1919 Smith Street, #1180
 Houston, TX 77002
 Phone: (713) 655-0050
 Telefax: (713) 655-1612

To: President ClintonRecipients Fax Number: 456-1907

From:

☒ Congresswoman Jackson Lee ☐ Afrika Bell ☐ Dalen Harris ☐ Ayanna Hawkins ☐ Suzanne James	☐ Oliver Kellman ☐ Jason Lee ☐ Helen Reed-Rowe ☐ Other: _____
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Date: 1/25/00 Number of Pages (including cover sheet): 3Comments: Letter to President Clinton

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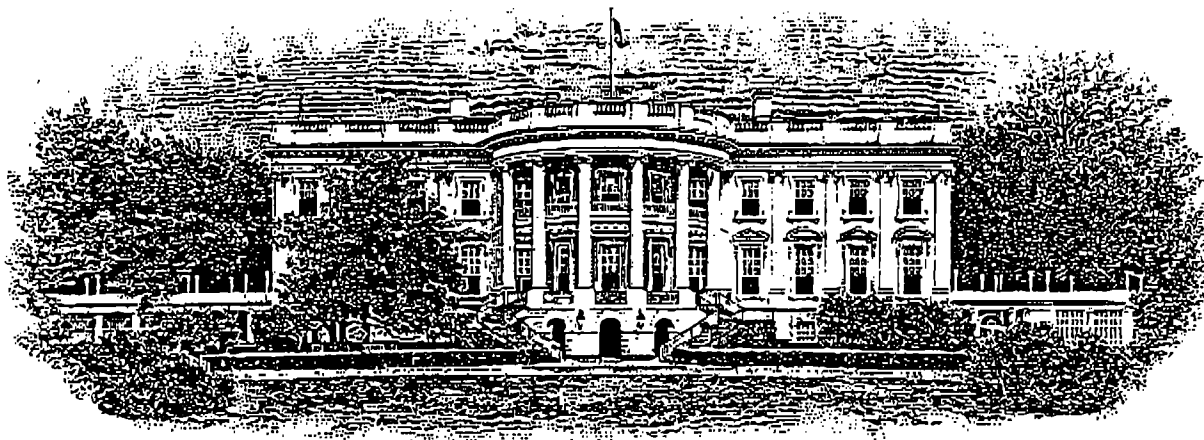
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01/10/00 MED 10:11 FAX

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF



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La Habana, 21 de enero de 2000

*Excmo. Sr. William Clinton
Presidente
Estados Unidos de América*

Estimado Presidente:

Las dos abuelas del niño Elián González Brotons hemos venido hasta Nueva York con la esperanza de recuperarlo.

Podrá suponer usted que hacer este viaje ha significado un gran sacrificio para nuestra familia, que no se ha separado un solo instante desde el momento de la tragedia en que perdimos a una hija y hemos sido forzados a contemplar con infinito dolor el secuestro de nuestro nieto. En los últimos días los que retienen criminalmente al niño ya no nos permiten siquiera hablar con él.

Sabemos que usted, enfrentándose a grandes obstáculos, ha expresado su reconocimiento al derecho indiscutible del padre de recuperar a su hijo. Juan Miguel el padre de Eliancito, nosotras y toda la familia estamos destruidos y vivimos el horror de ver pasar el tiempo.

A pesar de que conocemos de su inmenso trabajo, le solicitamos que nos reciba aunque sea por unos minutos. De usted preferirlo, sería absolutamente confidencial.

Si nos concede ese honor, constituiría para nosotras un extraordinario aliento, que ahora o en el futuro sería muy apreciado también por el pueblo de Estados Unidos que, apegado a los valores de familia, en muy amplia mayoría es decididamente partidario de que el niño regrese junto a su padre, abuelos y demás familiares.

Puede localizarnos en la casa de la Reverenda Joan Campbell, y el contacto se haría en la forma y lugar que usted estime pertinente.


Mariela Quintana Garrido y Raquel Rodríguez Rodríguez
Abuelas de Elián González Brotons

**THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET**

ID# 408776
PAGE 1

DATE RECEIVED: 01/14/2000

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE NYDIA VELAZQUEZ

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT EFFORTS IN THE SAFE RETURN OF ELIAN GONZALEZ TO HIS FATHER IN CUBA

		ACTION		DISPOSITION		
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C D	COMPLETED YY/MM/DD
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS		ORG	2000/01/14			
ACTION COMMENTS ATTN: CHUCK BRAIN						
ACTION COMMENTS:						
ACTION COMMENTS:						
ACTION COMMENTS:						

COMMENTS

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: 0

MEDIA: LETTER

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REPORT CODES:

USER CODES:

ACTION CODES:

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D - DRAFT RESPONSE
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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT (ROOM 72, OEOB) EXT-62590

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RANKING DEMOCRATIC MEMBER

COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND
FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND
COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS,
SECURITIES, AND GOVERNMENT
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CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS

CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS FOR
WOMEN'S ISSUES

CONGRESSIONAL
PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ

12TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

January 10, 2000

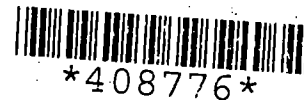
2241 RAYBURN BUILDING
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(202) 225-2361

DISTRICT OFFICES:

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BROOKLYN, NY 11206
(718) 599-3658

173 AVENUE B
NEW YORK, NY 10009
(212) 673-3997

16 COURT STREET
SUITE 1006
BROOKLYN, NY 11241
(718) 222-5819



The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20052

Dear Mr. President:

I would like to express my strong support for your efforts in the safe return of Elian Gonzalez to his father in Cuba. Elian, who has just recently lost his mother, has been kept from the only family he has ever known. The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service has determined that Elian's father is his sole legal guardian. This is dictated by the laws of this nation and by the natural law between a parent and a child.

There is no evidence to suggest that Elian's father is anything but a loving and responsible parent. No one can argue against the fact that his father loves him and is the proper and legal guardian. Mr. Gonzalez' legal guardianship over his son has been attacked only because of his nationality and not because of any conduct of his own. Denying him custody of his child would fly in the face of justice. The welfare of a child must not take a backseat to politics.

This is not a political question, but a question about a father and son separated because of the relationship between two countries. I strongly support the decision of the INS to return Elian to his father and his home.

Sincerely,

Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

cc: Attorney General Reno

823011

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 408766
PAGE 1

DATE RECEIVED: 01/12/2000

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE BOB MENENDEZ

SUBJECT: REQUESTS THE THE PRESIDENT TO TAKE NOT ACTION TO ENFORCE THE DECISION
ANNOUNCED BY THE INS THAT WOULD MANDATE ELIAN GONZALEZ RETURN TO CUBA

		ACTION	DISPOSITION			
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C D	COMPLETED YY/MM/DD
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS		ORG	2000/01/12			

ACTION COMMENTS ATTN: CHUCK BRAIN

NSC

ACTION COMMENTS:

ACTION COMMENTS:

ACTION COMMENTS:

COMMENTS cc: INS

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: 2

MEDIA: LETTER

INDIVIDUAL CODES:

REPORT CODES:

USER CODES:

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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT (ROOM 72, OEOB) EXT-62590

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Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515



408766

January 7, 2000

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

JAN 19 10 10 AM '00

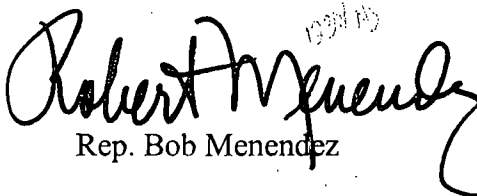
We are writing regarding the plight of Elian Gonzalez to request that you take no action to enforce the decision announced by the Immigration and Naturalization Service that would mandate Elian's return to Cuba.

As you are aware, there are many complicated legal aspects to this case. Given that the fate of an innocent little boy is at stake amidst these complex and unique circumstances, we believe that the U.S. Government should not move too hastily on this issue.

In addition, we feel that it is imperative that Congress be allowed to examine all the issues involved. We intend to introduce legislation to extend permanent resident alien status to Elian Gonzalez when Congress returns in late January. Accordingly, we respectfully urge you to take steps to halt the implementation of the INS' decision, waiting instead to work with Congress when it reconvenes.

Thank you for your thoughtful attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

1999/10

Rep. Bob Menendez


Rep. Peter Deutsch


Rep. Patrick Kennedy

836874

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 407993
PAGE 1

DATE RECEIVED: 01/10/2000

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE JOSE SERRANO

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO REJECT ALL ATTEMPTS TO THWART THE AUTHORITY AND
DECISION OF THE INS TO RETURN ELIAN GONZALEZ TO HIS FATHER IN CUBA

		ACTION		DISPOSITION		
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C D	COMPLETED YY/MM/DD
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS	LARRY STEIN	ORG	2000/01/10		C	00/01/10

ACTION COMMENTS

NSC

ACTION COMMENTS:

ACTION COMMENTS:

ACTION COMMENTS:

COMMENTS

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: 0

MEDIA: LETTER

INDIVIDUAL CODES:

REPORT CODES:

USER CODES:

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TYPE RESP = INITIALS OF SIGNER
CODE = A
COMPLETED = DATE OF OUTGOING

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT (ROOM 72, OEOB) EXT-62590

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JOSÉ E. SERRANO
16TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2342 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3216
(202) 225-4361
FAX (202) 225-6001

DISTRICT OFFICE:
890 GRAND CONCOURSE
BRONX, NY 10451-2828
(718) 538-5400
FAX (718) 588-3652

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3216

January 5, 2000

COMMITTEE:
APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
RANKING DEMOCRAT
COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE, THE JUDICIARY
AND RELATED AGENCIES
TRANSPORTATION
AND RELATED AGENCIES

MEMBER, CONGRESSIONAL
HISPANIC CAUCUS

MEMBER, CONGRESSIONAL
BLACK CAUCUS

VICE CHAIR
DEMOCRATIC STEERING
COMMITTEE

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500-0005



Dear Mr. President:

Finally after a flawed process and an unjustifiable delay, the INS has announced that Elián González will be returned to his father. I am supportive of this moral decision.

At a recent press conference, lawyers from Miami indicated they would be asking that this decision by the INS be overturned, and stated that they would be initiating legal action. This is outrageous, unacceptable, and has no supporting legal precedent or basis. Any attempt to change this long and overdue correct decision by the INS would be a grave mistake.

Now is not the time to again politicize the process. I urge you to reject all of these attempts to thwart the authority and decision of the INS. This child belongs with his father, and I hope that all of your efforts will be directed towards quickly bringing this to a conclusion.

Sincerely,

José E. Serrano
Member of Congress

JES:nab

936094

MAXINE WATERS
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
36th District, California

CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEES:
BANKING AND FINANCIAL
SERVICES
JUDICIARY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0535

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DISTRICT OFFICE
10124 S. BROADWAY
SUITE 1
LOS ANGELES, CA 90003
(323) 757-8800
FAX (323) 757-9500

January 6, 2000

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20050

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to you to again urge the Administration to assist in expediting the return of Elian Gonzalez to his father in Cuba. We applaud the National Council of Churches of Christ of the USA on the important role they are performing in the Elian Gonzalez immigration case. We support their request to accompany Elian back to Cuba and to turn him over to the Cuban Council of Churches so that he may be reunited with his father, Mr. Juan Gonzalez.

The U.S. Department of Justice Immigration and Naturalization Service's determination that Mr. Juan Gonzalez has the sole legal authority to speak on behalf of his son, regarding Elian's immigration status in the United States speaks not only to U.S. laws but to natural law. We ask that you assist the National Council of Churches of Christ of the USA in their effort to fulfill the father's official request of assistance to reunify his family.

We have been ardent in our efforts to ensure that Elian's situation not be decided based on the politics of the day or the sentiments of anti-Castro Cubans in Florida and the rest of the United States. Rather, it should be based on the interests of the child and the rights that any father would expect to have.

We urge your immediate intervention to resolve this situation and eliminate any further delay in the reunification of this family. Any further delay will ensure Elian's continued traumatic exposure to the ongoing protests in Miami.

Sincerely,

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress

William Clay
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Maurice Hinchey
Member of Congress

Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress

Stephanie Tubbs-Jones
Member of Congress

Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress

Julia Carson
Member of Congress

Neil Abercrombie
Member of Congress

Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress

Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress

Earl Hilliard
Member of Congress

cc: **Attorney General Janet Reno**
Commissioner Doris Meissner

Additional Supporters

**Mr. Harold Pope, President
National Bar Association**

**Dr. Joseph Lowery, Chairman
Black Leadership Forum**

**Dr. Dorothy Height, President Emerita and Chair
National Council of Negro Women**

**Mr. John Boyd, President
National Black Farmers Association and
Equality International**

**Mr. William Lucy, President
Coalition of Black Trade Unionists**

**The Honorable Roosevelt Coats, President
National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials**

**Ambassador Andrew Young
GoodWorks International, LLC**

**Ms. Thomasina Cotton, Acting President & CEO
Opportunities, Industrialization Centers of America**

**Ms. Jane Smith, President
National Council of Negro Women**

**Ms. Sullivan Robinson, Executive Director & CEO
Congress of National Black Churches**

**Ms. C. Delores Tucker, Chair
National Political Congress of Black Women**

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 407654
PAGE 1

DATE RECEIVED:

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE JEFF BINGAMAN

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO RESIST RESPONDING TO THE POLITICAL FORCES AROUND THE
DEBATE OF ELIAN GONZALEZ

		ACTION		DISPOSITION		
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C D	COMPLETED YY/MM/DD
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS	LARRY STEIN	ORG	2000/01/03		C	60/01/06

ACTION COMMENTS

NSC

ACTION COMMENTS:

ACTION COMMENTS:

ACTION COMMENTS:

COMMENTS

cc: INS

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: 0

MEDIA: LETTER

INDIVIDUAL CODES:

REPORT CODES:

USER CODES:

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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT (ROOM 72, OEOB) EXT-62590

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United States Senate

December 16, 1999



President William J. Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

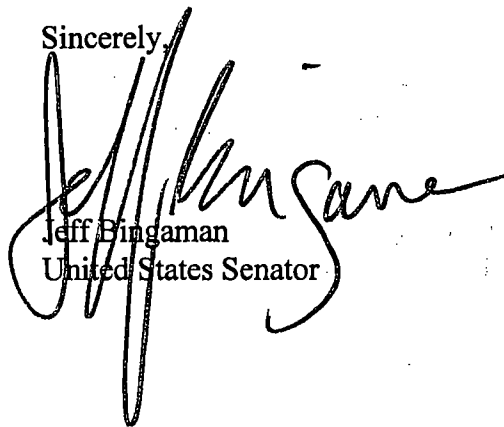
3405401152

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to you regarding the battle for custody of Elian Gonzalez, the young Cuban boy whose mother perished attempting to flee to the United States. I have been greatly disturbed, as I'm sure you have, at the way in which groups on both sides of the issue have turned the very personal issue of where this young boy belongs into a debate with very political goals.

My purpose in writing this letter is simply to urge you to resist responding to the political forces swirling around this debate. If it is determined that the father is an appropriate adult to have custody of his son, this matter should be resolved in a manner that recognizes the rights of the surviving natural parent and insures that the best interests of the child are furthered. I would urge that this decision be made soon, so that the political storm that has been unleashed is prevented from doing further damage to this child and all of the parties involved.

Sincerely,



Jeff Bingaman
United States Senator

JOSÉ E. SERRANO
16TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2342 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3218
(202) 225-4361
FAX (202) 225-8001

DISTRICT OFFICE:
890 GRAND CONCOURSE
BRONX, NY 10461-2828
(718) 538-5400
FAX (718) 588-3852

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3216

December 8, 1999

COMMITTEE:
APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
RANKING DEMOCRAT
COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE, THE JUDICIARY
AND RELATED AGENCIES
TRANSPORTATION
AND RELATED AGENCIES

MEMBER, CONGRESSIONAL
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MEMBER, CONGRESSIONAL
BLACK CAUCUS

VICE CHAIR
DEMOCRATIC STEERING
COMMITTEE

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500-0005

Dear Mr. President:

It is my understanding that an inter-agency task force, led by the National Security Agency, is trying to determine what procedures should be followed with respect to the case of Elián González, the Cuban child rescued off the coast of Florida. I am at a loss to understand what would justify deviating from established procedures governing the rights of children found outside the protection of their own governments, which were designed and negotiated to protect not only the rights of nationals of other countries but also those of our own citizens.

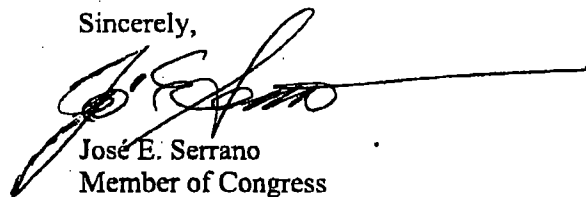
Although I can appreciate the sensitivity of this case, I believe that the United States government, immediately upon finding this child, should have returned him to Cuba to his natural father, who is his only surviving parent. Unfortunately, the Immigration and Naturalization Service placed Elián in the temporary custody of relatives in Miami. Elián's father has now stated clearly and on numerous occasions that he wants his son returned to his care, and I believe that the parental rights of the father should take precedence over all political considerations.

You should quickly and personally intervene to facilitate the return of this small child to his father, his grandparents, and the place of his birth. In this particular case, a state court is not the appropriate forum. Moreover, a judicial process will only further delay the return of this child to Cuba, and will exacerbate already strained relations between the United States and Cuba.

Could there be a more poignant example of the irrationality governing our policy towards Cuba than the plight of this child, who has now become an international poster child for competing national interests? Time honored international procedures are being ignored in favor of political interests. This is a travesty.

With thanks for your attention to my views and best wishes, I am

Sincerely,



José E. Serrano
Member of Congress

JES:nab

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 20, 1999

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The world knows the story of a mother who gave her life to protect her child and give him freedom. Along with his stepfather and several other people, she joined her young son in a small boat and entered dangerous waters. In all, this young six-year-old boy's story of how he arrived on our shores for freedom is a story for the ages. It is a story of the steps people will take to find and secure freedom.

Throughout our long history, people throughout the world have found freedom on our shores. Countless people through the years have fled the brutality of communism. In this young boy, Elian Gonzalez, hanging on to an inner-tube for his life is indeed a miracle. It should be recognized as such.

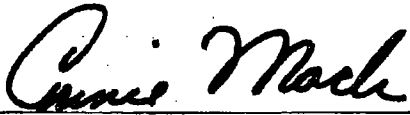
Therefore, when the Congress returns from the current recess, we intend to move to consider a measure granting United States citizenship to Elian Gonzalez.

Mr. President, there has been much too much debate; we should make this simple. Elian's mother, Elizabeth Rodriguez, gave her life so that her son would have the full protection of America's freedom. We undertake this initiative in honor of his mother and in recognition of the danger the boy faces. We in the Senate understand this young man has a right to freedom.

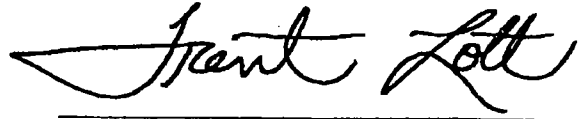
There is talk that the INS will simply send Elian back to the clutches of Castro's communist dictatorship. To return him without American citizenship would be a tragedy and a travesty. To ensure he gets a fair hearing in court by people who treasure liberty and honor and respect the rule of law, we hope the United States will bestow citizenship on him. At this point, Elian's future should be decided by his family and the courts. But later in life as an American citizen, he will have the freedom to choose where he wishes to live. His future will no longer be a political decision, but a decision based upon the best interests of the child. By confirming citizenship, we will be preserving the father's rights to see and be with his son. But most importantly, we will be preserving the boy's rights to live in freedom.

Since citizenship would also prevent the INS from forcefully removing Elian, we request that you take no action to deliver this boy to Cuba before we can act on his citizenship measure. Any act to do so would stand in conflict with the spirit of the season and the memory of Elian's mother.

Sincerely,



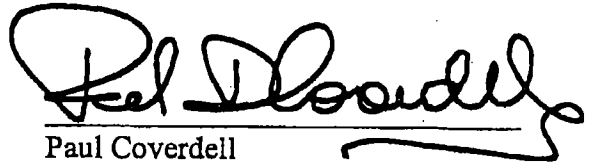
Connie Mack
United States Senator



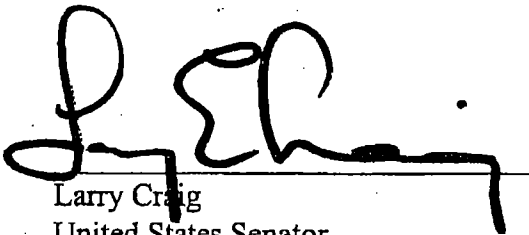
Trent Lott
United States Senator



Don Nickles
United States Senator



Paul Coverdell
United States Senator



Larry Craig
United States Senator