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113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 215

To waive certain prohibitions with respect to nationals of Cuba coming to the United States to play organized professional baseball.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 2013

Mr. SERRANO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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A BILL

To waive certain prohibitions with respect to nationals of Cuba coming to the United States to play organized professional baseball.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Baseball Diplomacy Act''.

SEC. 2. REMOVAL OF CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS.

(a) RESTRICTION ON EMBARGO AUTHORITY.—The authorities of section 620(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act

of 1961, those authorities under section 5(b) of the Trading with the Enemy Act that were being exercised with respect to Cuba on July 1, 1977, as a result of a national emergency declared before that date, and are being exercised on the date of the enactment of this Act, and section 203 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act may not be exercised to regulate or prohibit—

(1) those transactions permitted under section 515.571 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, by or on behalf of a Cuban national who enters the United States from Cuba on a visa issued under section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act for the purpose of playing organized professional baseball; and

(2) a Cuban national described in paragraph (1) from returning to Cuba with the earnings made in playing organized professional baseball.

(b) RESTRICTION ON IMMIGRATION AUTHORITY.—The authority contained in section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act may not be used to deny a visa described in subsection (a)(1) to a Cuban national for the purpose of playing organized professional baseball.

(c) INAPPLICABILITY OF OTHER RESTRICTIONS.—This section applies notwithstanding section 102(h) of the

Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996.

SEC. 3. DURATION OF VISA.

A visa described in section 2(a)(1)—

(1) shall permit the alien to whom the visa is issued to remain in the United States only for the duration of the baseball season; and

(2) need not be renewed for subsequent entries into the United States for the duration of a valid contract entered into between the alien and the professional baseball team with which the alien played in the preceding baseball season.

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