

Washington, DC (May 24, 2012) – Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-Palm Harbor) issued the following statement condemning the Obama Administration for granting a visa to visit the United States to Mariela Castro, the niece of Fidel Castro and the daughter of Raul Castro:

"It is extremely shameful and troubling to grant a visa to an activist who represents the Communist Castro regime, and this raises concerns about the Obama administration's decision-making process when it comes to granting visas and its efforts to improve human rights. The Cuban people continue to suffer and this decision simply feeds into the hands of a corrupt and authoritarian regime."

As a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Bilirakis has been instrumental in promoting democracy and the protection of human rights in Cuba and throughout the world.