

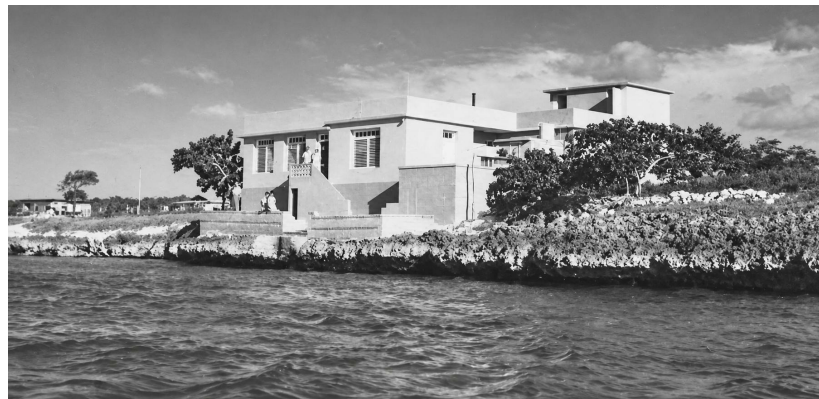


Growing up in Miami, I remember many meals with friends at my favorite authentic Cuban restaurants. There was always plenty of Cuban food, strong Cuban “cafecito”, and even stronger opinions being shared around the neighboring tables. If you listened carefully, sooner or later you would hear something heartbreaking: an older Cuban yearning for and talking about home.

Cuba.

For as long as I can remember, I’ve heard my father, grandfather, and older friends talk about the Cuba that was lost, and their hope that someday it would be free once again.

My dad still talks about visiting his grandfather’s oceanside home in Guardalavaca, diving into the clear Caribbean waters, swimming out to a sandbar, and spending hours playing beneath the hot sun before swimming home at dusk.



I love watching my own children build memories with their grandparents. And it reminds me of something communism stole from my family. I never got those summers in Cuba. My kids will never know the land of their ancestors. My own father and grandfather barely escaped Fidel Castro’s island prison to start over in the US and never got to return to their homeland.

All of this came to mind when I saw a recent *Philadelphia Inquirer* poll reporting that 57 percent of likely Democratic voters in Pennsylvania have a favorable view of socialism, and nearly four in ten describe themselves as democratic socialists. That’s insane!

For me, socialism isn’t an abstract political theory. My family knows: ideas have consequences, and bad ideas have victims.

Socialism shifts authority and responsibility away from individuals, families, churches, private enterprise, and other institutions — and wrongly places greater confidence and power in government.

Communism carries those same premises to their most destructive conclusions.

That’s why warning signs matter. Speaking at PA Family’s City on the Hill high-school conference this past summer, [Venezuelan-born Daniel Di Martino put it plainly](#):

“If we are ever going to lose freedom in America, it’s going to be because people here relinquished it voluntarily.”

And for Christians, there is an even deeper issue. Deuteronomy 6:5–7 places the responsibility for teaching children squarely upon parents. God entrusted mothers and fathers, not government bureaucracies, with the primary responsibility to raise, teach, protect, and care for their children.

At PA Family Institute, our work begins with the family as a God-designed institution and the bedrock of a free and flourishing society. Government, too, has a God-ordained role, but in our representative form of government, its authority is constrained by our Constitution and derives

its “just powers from the consent of the governed” – never at the expense of the family.

Socialism reverses that order. And it rarely arrives announcing the freedoms that will eventually be surrendered. It deceptively promises fairness, security, compassion, and progress while steadily moving responsibility and authority toward the state.

My grandfather never made it home to a free Cuba. But he allowed his children and grandchildren to live in a country where freedom can still be defended.

Free people should recognize the warning signs before it's too late. We would be wise to pay attention.

For Faith, Family, and Freedom,



Josue Sierra

Director of Communications
Pennsylvania Family Council

P.S. Under communism, children belong to the government, and parents have no rights. You might think that wouldn't happen in the US, but this isn't merely theoretical here in Pennsylvania. **The Shapiro Administration's Department of Human Services has advanced regulations that would [further restrict parents' access to their own children's mental-health records](#)**, including eliminating an existing provision giving parents access to records for children under 14. IRRC will consider these regulations on October 15. [Tell IRRC to protect parental rights here.](#) *
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