

By Representatives Lacasa, Feeney, Logan, Rubio, Garcia, Cantens, R. Diaz de la Portilla, Villalobos, Barreiro, Prieguez, Betancourt and Rojas

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House Resolution

A resolution urging the United States Department of Justice to suspend its efforts to deport Elian Gonzalez, to allow Elian Gonzalez the opportunity to petition for asylum, and to permit a determination of custody proceedings for Elian Gonzalez which take into account his best interests.

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Rodriguez, twenty-eight years of age, and her five-year-old son, Elian Gonzalez, attempted to flee communist Cuba by crossing the Straits of Florida on a small vessel, and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Rodriguez perished when the vessel sank in the waters off the coast of Florida, but her son, Elian Gonzalez, survived the perilous crossing, and

WHEREAS, upon being rescued by fishermen, Elian Gonzalez was taken into custody by the Federal Government of the United States, and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Justice has refused to allow Elian Gonzalez to petition for asylum in the United States and has steadfastly attempted to deport the child and return him to Cuba, and

WHEREAS, throughout the course of the contentious legal proceedings to deport Elian Gonzalez to Cuba by the United States Department of Justice, the best interests of the child have been unjustly ignored, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Florida:

1 That the House of Representatives of the State of
2 Florida urges the United States Department of Justice to
3 suspend indefinitely its efforts to deport Elian Gonzalez, to
4 allow Elian Gonzalez the opportunity to petition for asylum,
5 and to permit a determination of custody proceedings for Elian
6 Gonzalez which takes into account the best interests of the
7 child.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution
9 be transmitted to the President of the United States, the
10 Attorney General of the United States, and to each member of
11 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

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