

HM 0023D 2003

House Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging Congress to continue its support of Plan Colombia.

WHEREAS, Plan Colombia is a \$7.5 billion program developed by the Government of Colombia in its ongoing efforts to combat the narcotics industry, increase the rule of law, protect human rights, expand economic development, institute judicial reform, and promote peace, and

WHEREAS, citing numerous incentives for continuing United States support of the plan, the Department of State, in its report to Congress on December 3, 2002, described the significant progress Colombia has made to date and called attention to those areas most in need of continued improvement, and

WHEREAS, on July 7, 2003, Secretary of State Colin Powell certified to Congress that the Colombian Government and Armed Forces are meeting United States congressional criteria related to human rights and severance of ties to paramilitary groups, thereby triggering the release of \$31.6 million in addition to an amount previously disbursed to the nation, with a decision to be made within the next two months respecting the release of the remaining \$31.6 million authorized for the year, and

WHEREAS, in view of its close proximity to Colombia and that nation's demonstrated commitment to working with the United States to achieve their mutual objectives, the State of Florida is especially desirous that the United States Government continue its support of Plan Colombia, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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That the Congress of the United States is urged to continue its support of Plan Colombia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be dispatched to the President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.