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House Resolution

A resolution designating April 25, 2006, as "Free Cuba Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, for more than four decades, Cuba's communist dictatorship has denied the Cuban people such basic civil liberties as freedom of speech and religion and has been condemned repeatedly by the United Nations for human rights abuses and denounced again and again by international human rights organizations for the persecution of peaceful dissidents and political prisoners, and

WHEREAS, having declared unequivocal hostility and enmity toward the United States and its free, democratic way of life, the Cuban government is harboring fugitives from United States justice, is attempting to develop biochemical weaponry, and has been designated by the United States Department of State as an official state sponsor of terrorism, and

WHEREAS, the people of Cuba, oppressed for 47 years by the nation's terrorist, communistic regime, have struggled to achieve freedom and democracy under the courageous leadership of opposition members and human rights activists on the island, bolstered by the vigorous support of the Cuban-American exile community, while the present dictatorship steadfastly refuses to allow free, fair, open elections in the Cuban citizens' effort toward self-determination, and

WHEREAS, Florida, home to over one million Cuban-American exiles who have contributed positively to the social, political, and economic well-being of the state, maintains stronger

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historical and cultural links to Cuba than any other state in our nation and harbors only good will toward the people of Cuba in their aspirations to achieve liberty and a freely elected government in which they, their families, and their future generations may live in peace and prosperity in a free and open society, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

That the House of Representatives recognizes the courageous quest for freedom by the dauntless opposition leaders inside Cuba, expresses its solidarity with Cuba's freedom-seeking people, and, as an expression of its desire that Cuba rejoin the community of free and democratic nations, designates April 25, 2006, as "Free Cuba Day" in Florida.