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3 A memorial to the President of the United States and  
4 the Congress of the United States expressing profound  
5 disagreement with the decision of the President to  
6 restore full diplomatic relations with Cuba, opposing  
7 the opening of a consulate or any diplomatic office in  
8 this state, and urging the upholding of the embargo.  
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10 WHEREAS, on December 17, 2014, the President of the United  
11 States announced that this country would restore full diplomatic  
12 relations with the nation of Cuba after more than 50 years of  
13 unconcealed hostility, and

14 WHEREAS, Cuba has been under the crushing oppression of a  
15 brutal communist dictatorship since 1959, led first by Fidel  
16 Castro and more recently by his brother Raul, and

17 WHEREAS, the actions of the Castro brothers have resulted  
18 in the impoverishment of the Cuban people and a complete and  
19 blatant disregard for human rights and democratic principles by  
20 the government of that nation, and

21 WHEREAS, under the Castro brothers, Cuba has been an active  
22 and ominous threat to the vital interests of the United States  
23 and all peace-loving nations, as members of Cuba's military and  
24 diplomatic corps have worked assiduously to promote violent,  
25 anti-democratic revolutions across the globe, and

26 WHEREAS, the diplomatic initiative announced by the  
27 President involved the release of U.S. government subcontractor  
28 Alan Gross by Cuba after 5 years of detention due to the absurd  
29 and unfounded allegation of the Cuban government that he was a

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30 spy, and the release by the United States of three Cuban spies  
31 convicted in the United States of conspiracy to commit espionage  
32 and conspiracy to commit murder, including the murder of at  
33 least three United States citizens, and linked to terrorist  
34 activities in this country, and

35 WHEREAS, numerous respected public officials, both  
36 Democratic and Republican, at the federal and state levels, have  
37 denounced this restoration of diplomatic relations and strongly  
38 believe that it will do nothing to free the Cuban people from  
39 the poverty and injustice they have suffered for more than a  
40 half century and that it will only serve to support a tottering,  
41 bankrupt dictatorship, and

42 WHEREAS, the residents of this state are all too familiar  
43 with the viciousness of the Castro regime due to the presence of  
44 millions of Cuban-born men and women who fled from a regime  
45 intent on stealing their property and putting them at the  
46 service of a brutal military government, as they outlawed  
47 religious expression, and indoctrinated children to engage in  
48 espionage against their own family members, and

49 WHEREAS, these men and women are heartbroken over how the  
50 Castro brothers have destroyed the culture and economic vitality  
51 of their beloved island homeland, and

52 WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper for the members of the  
53 Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives to  
54 express profound disagreement with the decision of the President  
55 of the United States to restore full diplomatic relations with  
56 Cuba, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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That we express profound disagreement with the decision of the President of the United States to restore full diplomatic relations with Cuba, oppose the opening of a Cuban consulate or any diplomatic office in this state, and urge the Congress of the United States to uphold the embargo until such a time when this arcane dictatorship is no longer in power and the most basic human and civil rights are once again recognized in Cuba.

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