

By Senator Garcia

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Senate Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States,  
urging Congress to review and revise the Cuban  
Adjustment Act of 1966.

WHEREAS, the Cuban Adjustment Act of 1966, Pub. L. No. 89-732, 80 Stat. 1161, was enacted and subsequently amended to allow certain Cubans physically present in the United States to be treated as aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence, creating what is often referred to as the "wet foot, dry foot" policy, and

WHEREAS, this law provides Cuban immigrants with an advantage that immigrants of other nationalities do not have, and

WHEREAS, at the time the law was enacted, the Cuban government was not recognized by the United States, the countries did not maintain diplomatic relations, travel between the countries was severely restricted, and Cuban immigrants were refugees from political oppression during the Cold War, and

WHEREAS, the Cold War has ended, the United States has recognized the Cuban government, and both countries now maintain diplomatic relations, and

WHEREAS, travel between the United States and Cuba is now considerably less restricted, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

That the Congress of the United States is urged to review and revise the Cuban Adjustment Act of 1966 to reflect the changes in the relationship between the United States and Cuba in the half century since its enactment. Specifically, the Congress of the United States should consider the circumstances

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33 under which Cuban immigrants are eligible to apply for social  
34 benefits as refugees under the wet foot, dry foot policy, taking  
35 into consideration the renewed diplomatic relations between the  
36 two nations.

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