

By Senator Flores

39-01808-19

20191660__

Senate Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States and the President of the United States, urging them to grant temporary protected status to Venezuelans in the United States.

WHEREAS, Venezuela is enduring an unprecedented economic, humanitarian, security, and refugee crisis, consisting of extreme food and medicine shortages, severe infant and child malnutrition, rampant crime, and government-sponsored repression, and

WHEREAS, Venezuela's economic crisis continues unabated, and the International Monetary Fund projects that inflation in Venezuela could reach an annual rate of 10 million percent in 2019, and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights reported the deaths of 124 persons in Venezuela which could be attributed to violations of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly, and

WHEREAS, from September 2017 through April 2018, a review of pharmacies in five major cities in Venezuela showed a shortage of nearly 85 percent of the medicines essential to treating four of the most recurrent causes of morbidity in the country, diarrhea, respiratory tract infections, diabetes, and high blood pressure, and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Venezuela's Ministry of People's Power for Health reported a 30 percent increase in the infant mortality rate and a 60 percent increase in the maternal mortality rate, and

39-01808-19

20191660__

30 WHEREAS, according to the Office of the High Commissioner
31 for Human Rights, Venezuelan intelligence and security forces
32 have increasingly used arbitrary arrests and detentions to
33 repress and intimidate civil society, political opponents, and
34 voices of dissent, and

35 WHEREAS, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, the United Nations High
36 Commissioner for Human Rights, stated, "The failure to hold
37 security forces accountable for such serious human rights
38 violations suggests that the rule of law is virtually absent in
39 Venezuela," and

40 WHEREAS, according to United Nations figures, three million
41 Venezuelans have fled the country since 2014 because of
42 violence, political oppression, and the ongoing humanitarian
43 crisis, NOW, THEREFORE,

44
45 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

46
47 That Venezuela is in a humanitarian crisis and the
48 Legislature of the State of Florida condemns Venezuelan
49 President Nicolás Maduro's authoritarian steps to undermine
50 democratic institutions and urges the Congress of the United
51 States and the President of the United states to grant temporary
52 protected status to Venezuelans in the United States.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State dispatch
54 copies of this memorial to the President of the United States,
55 to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of
56 the United States House of Representatives, and to each member
57 of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.