

HM 965

2019

1 House Memorial

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

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

12 WHEREAS, Venezuela's economic crisis continues unabated and
13 the International Monetary Fund projects that inflation in
14 Venezuela could reach an annual rate of 10 million percent in
15 2019, and

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

20 WHEREAS, from September 2017 through April 2018, a review
21 of pharmacies in five major cities in Venezuela showed a
22 shortage of nearly 85 percent of medicine essential to treat
23 four of the most recurrent causes of morbidity in the country,
24 including diarrhea, respiratory tract infections, diabetes, and
25 high blood pressure, and

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

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

36 WHEREAS, according to United Nations figures, three million
37 Venezuelans have fled the country since 2014 because of
38 violence, political oppression, and the ongoing humanitarian
39 crisis, and

40 WHEREAS, by early 2018 more than half of all Venezuelans
41 had lost between 19 and 24 pounds and today 90 percent do not
42 have enough money to buy food and sixty percent of the
43 population lives in extreme poverty, and

44 WHEREAS the minimum monthly wage in 2017 bought only 12
45 percent of one Venezuelan's basic food needs and by 2018
46 approximately 5,000 people per day were leaving Venezuela in
47 search of food, and

48 WHEREAS, the people of Venezuela are facing a dire need for
49 temporary protected status, NOW, THEREFORE,
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51 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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53 That Venezuela is in a humanitarian crisis and the
54 Legislature of the State of Florida condemns Venezuelan
55 President Nicolás Maduro's authoritarian steps to undermine
56 democratic institutions and urges the Congress of the United
57 States and the President of the United States to grant temporary
58 protected status to Venezuelans in the United States.

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