



766156

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
02/21/2023	.	
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The Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security (Avila) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete lines 78 - 85  
and insert:  
to Colombia, a longstanding ally of the United States in Latin America, and opposes the Biden Administration's revocation of the FARC's designation as a Foreign Terrorist Organization.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Legislature urges the United States Secretary of State to redesignate the FARC as a Foreign Terrorist Organization.



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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State dispatch  
12 copies of this memorial to the President of the United States,  
13 the President

14  
15 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

16 And the title is amended as follows:

17 Delete lines 5 - 72

18 and insert:

19 (FARC) as a Foreign Terrorist Organization pursuant to  
20 section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as  
21 amended.

22  
23 WHEREAS, Colombia is among the oldest standing democracies  
24 in Latin America, and

25 WHEREAS, the United States established diplomatic relations  
26 with Colombia in 1822, and

27 WHEREAS, Colombia is a constitutional republic where the  
28 people of Colombia hold the power and elect representatives to  
29 exercise that power, and

30 WHEREAS, in October 1997, the United States Department of  
31 State designated the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia  
32 (FARC) as a Foreign Terrorist Organization, and

33 WHEREAS, after many years of violence and armed conflict,  
34 Colombia is now the United States' strongest ally in Latin  
35 America, and

36 WHEREAS, with the support of the United States through Plan  
37 Colombia and the State of Florida, Colombia has transformed from  
38 a volatile and near-failed state in 2001 into a stable and  
39 prosperous democracy with a growing free market, and



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40           WHEREAS, May 15, 2023, will mark the 11-year anniversary of  
41 the effective date of the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion  
42 Agreement, which has supported economic growth and employment  
43 opportunities in Colombia, the United States, and the State of  
44 Florida, and

45           WHEREAS, the State of Florida is responsible for roughly 25  
46 percent of all trade between the United States and Colombia, and

47           WHEREAS, the United States, the State of Florida, and  
48 Colombia have shared a commitment to promoting security,  
49 prosperity, human rights, and democracy in Colombia and across  
50 the Western Hemisphere, and

51           WHEREAS, in recent years, the Colombian government has  
52 taken courageous steps to enforce the law, stop drug  
53 traffickers, and rein in foreign terrorist organizations like  
54 the National Liberation Army (ELN) and FARC, and

55           WHEREAS, the State of Florida continues to support the  
56 Colombian people in their efforts to preserve peace, support  
57 human rights defenders, promote greater educational  
58 opportunities, increase public and private investments, and  
59 respect human rights and the rule of law, and

60           WHEREAS, the United States maintains a strong commitment to  
61 cooperating with Colombia to investigate, arrest, and prosecute  
62 members of transnational criminal organizations and to dismantle  
63 terrorist groups like the ELN, FARC, and Hezbollah, whose  
64 illicit activities, specifically narcotrafficking, for many  
65 years devastated Colombia and other Western Hemisphere  
66 countries, and

67           WHEREAS, Colombia has been an essential partner to the  
68 United States in continuing efforts to support the courageous



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69 people of Venezuela in their fight for freedom, democracy, and  
70 economic prosperity against the dictatorship of Nicolás Maduro,  
71 and

72 WHEREAS, enemies of freedom, such as the communist regime  
73 in Cuba and the Maduro regime in Venezuela, exploit and abuse  
74 vulnerable individuals and perpetrate human rights abuses, such  
75 as torture, arbitrary killings, and imprisonment, while also  
76 promoting violent unrest, vandalism, and destruction of property  
77 against individuals simply asking to be heard, and

78 WHEREAS, in December 2021, the Biden Administration revoked  
79 the designation of the FARC as a Foreign Terrorist Organization,  
80 and

81 WHEREAS, the FARC has murdered, tortured, and kidnapped  
82 innocent Colombians and Americans, including kidnap victims and  
83 United States citizens Marc D. Gonsalves, Thomas R. Howes, and  
84 Keith Stansell, as well as American Thomas Janis, who was  
85 murdered, and has committed other crimes and gross violations of  
86 human rights, and

87 WHEREAS, the FARC subvert democratic institutions and those  
88 who defend them, and

89 WHEREAS, the FARC has committed and supported acts of  
90 terrorism and continues to do so, and

91 WHEREAS, the Colombian electorate in 2016 defeated a  
92 referendum that would have enacted a deal with the FARC, and

93 WHEREAS, the Colombian government later ratified an  
94 agreement with the FARC without the approval of the electorate,  
95 NOW,