

**By** the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security; and Senators Avila and Collins

583-02154-23

2023160c1

## Senate Memorial

A memorial to the United States Department of State, urging the United States Secretary of State to redesignate the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) as a Foreign Terrorist Organization pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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30 Florida, and

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

33 WHEREAS, the United States, the State of Florida, and  
34 Colombia have shared a commitment to promoting security,  
35 prosperity, human rights, and democracy in Colombia and across  
36 the Western Hemisphere, and

37 WHEREAS, in recent years, the Colombian government has  
38 taken courageous steps to enforce the law, stop drug  
39 traffickers, and rein in foreign terrorist organizations like  
40 the National Liberation Army (ELN) and FARC, and

41 WHEREAS, the State of Florida continues to support the  
42 Colombian people in their efforts to preserve peace, support  
43 human rights defenders, promote greater educational  
44 opportunities, increase public and private investments, and  
45 respect human rights and the rule of law, and

46 WHEREAS, the United States maintains a strong commitment to  
47 cooperating with Colombia to investigate, arrest, and prosecute  
48 members of transnational criminal organizations and to dismantle  
49 terrorist groups like the ELN, FARC, and Hezbollah, whose  
50 illicit activities, specifically narcotrafficking, for many  
51 years devastated Colombia and other Western Hemisphere  
52 countries, and

53 WHEREAS, Colombia has been an essential partner to the  
54 United States in continuing efforts to support the courageous  
55 people of Venezuela in their fight for freedom, democracy, and  
56 economic prosperity against the dictatorship of Nicolás Maduro,  
57 and

58 WHEREAS, enemies of freedom, such as the communist regime

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59 in Cuba and the Maduro regime in Venezuela, exploit and abuse  
60 vulnerable individuals and perpetrate human rights abuses, such  
61 as torture, arbitrary killings, and imprisonment, while also  
62 promoting violent unrest, vandalism, and destruction of property  
63 against individuals simply asking to be heard, and

64 WHEREAS, in December 2021, the Biden Administration revoked  
65 the designation of the FARC as a Foreign Terrorist Organization,  
66 and

67 WHEREAS, the FARC has murdered, tortured, and kidnapped  
68 innocent Colombians and Americans, including kidnap victims and  
69 United States citizens Marc D. Gonsalves, Thomas R. Howes, and  
70 Keith Stansell, as well as American Thomas Janis, who was  
71 murdered, and has committed other crimes and gross violations of  
72 human rights, and

73 WHEREAS, the FARC subvert democratic institutions and those  
74 who defend them, and

75 WHEREAS, the FARC has committed and supported acts of  
76 terrorism and continues to do so, and

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

79 WHEREAS, the Colombian government later ratified an  
80 agreement with the FARC without the approval of the electorate,  
81 NOW, THEREFORE,

82

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

84

85 That the Florida Legislature declares its firm commitment  
86 to Colombia, a longstanding ally of the United States in Latin  
87 America, and opposes the Biden Administration's revocation of

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88 the FARC's designation as a Foreign Terrorist Organization.

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

92 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State dispatch  
93 copies of this memorial to the President of the United States,  
94 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
95 United States House of Representatives, the United States  
96 Secretary of State, and each member of the Florida delegation to  
97 the United States Congress.