

By Senator Calatayud

38-01839-26

20261766__

Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the importance of the United States' actions against narco-terrorism, affirming the national security significance of holding Nicolás Maduro accountable, supporting democratic transition in Venezuela, and expressing solidarity with the Venezuelan people.

WHEREAS, the United States has formally identified Nicolás Maduro as a narco-terrorist based on allegations of participation in large-scale narcotics trafficking and collaboration with transnational criminal and terrorist organizations, activities that directly threaten the safety, security, and public health of the United States, and

WHEREAS, the pursuit and accountability of narco-terrorists is a critical component of United States national security policy and of broader efforts to combat organized crime, illicit drug trafficking, and terrorism, all of which undermine democratic institutions and the rule of law, and

WHEREAS, Nicolás Maduro and his regime represented a grave threat to democracy, stability, and human rights in Venezuela and throughout the Western Hemisphere, contributing to political repression, economic collapse, mass displacement, and the erosion of democratic principles, and

WHEREAS, the stability of Venezuela is strategically important to the United States and to hemispheric relations, particularly in countering the growing influence of authoritarian regimes and hostile foreign powers, including China, Russia, and Iran, whose involvement in the region

38-01839-26

20261766__

undermines democratic governance and the interests of the United States, and

WHEREAS, the presence and influence of Cuban officials and security operatives in Venezuela have contributed to the use of repressive tactics, including surveillance, intimidation, and the suppression of political dissent, thereby exacerbating human rights violations and the oppression of the Venezuelan people, and

WHEREAS, a necessary and immediate first step in any credible transition to democracy in Venezuela must be the liberation of the nearly 1,000 political prisoners who remain unjustly detained for exercising their fundamental freedoms and opposing authoritarian rule, and

WHEREAS, the current moment presents a critical opportunity to advance democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights in Venezuela, and to support a peaceful transition that reflects the will of the Venezuelan people, and

WHEREAS, the 2024 Venezuelan electoral process demonstrated the determination of democratic forces to pursue change through peaceful means, despite systemic repression and institutional barriers, and

WHEREAS, María Corina Machado, a leader of Venezuela's democratic opposition, has been internationally recognized and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her principled, peaceful leadership and unwavering commitment to democracy, human rights, and nonviolent political change, and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida shares deep cultural, familial, and economic ties with the Venezuelan people, and the restoration of democracy in Venezuela would strengthen

38-01839-26

20261766__

prosperity, regional stability, and the enduring bonds between
Venezuela and the United States and the State of Florida, NOW,
THEREFORE,

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

That the Florida Senate recognizes the importance of the
United States holding narco-terrorists accountable as an
essential measure to protect national security and promote
stability and democratic values in the Western Hemisphere.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Senate commends
President Donald J. Trump for his leadership and decisive
actions in confronting narco-terrorism and advancing United
States national security interests, and acknowledges the role of
Secretary of State Marco Rubio in championing diplomatic efforts
in support of democracy and freedom in Venezuela.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Senate also
commends President Donald J. Trump for his commitment to a
Western Hemisphere in which all nations may finally live in
freedom, governed by democratic institutions, respect for human
rights, and the rule of law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Senate denounces
foreign interference and repressive practices, including those
carried out by Cuban officials in Venezuela, and calls for an
end to actions that undermine sovereignty, democracy, and human
dignity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Senate supports the
immediate release of all political prisoners in Venezuela as an
indispensable first step toward reconciliation, democratic

38-01839-26

20261766__

88 transition, and the restoration of civil liberties.

89 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Senate affirms its
90 solidarity with the Venezuelan people and democratic leadership,
91 including those recognized for peaceful opposition, and supports
92 a transition to democracy which will bring freedom and
93 prosperity to Venezuela while strengthening cultural and
94 economic ties with the United States and the State of Florida.

95 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution, with
96 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be transmitted to the Governor
97 of the State of Florida, the President of the United States, the
98 United States Secretary of State, each member of the Florida
99 delegation to the United States Congress, and appropriate
100 international partners supporting democratic transition in
101 Venezuela as tangible tokens of the sentiments of the Florida
102 Senate.