

**By** Senator Calatayud

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## 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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.