

A Resolution Calling Upon the United States Government to Normalize Diplomatic and Economic Relations with Cuba

WHEREAS, beginning in October 1960, the United States government imposed an economic, commercial and financial embargo on Cuba that not only prevents most engagement and trade with the United States, but also punishes other countries that continue to engage with Cuba; and

WHEREAS, this embargo continues to inflict extreme hardship on the Cuban people by creating shortages of food and medicine, severely restricting financial and trade opportunities and has even prevented Cuba from obtaining medical equipment and supplies to address the COVID-10 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, both the Cuban government and the United Nations have estimated that the embargo has cost the Cuban economy \$130 billion over six decades; and

WHEREAS, in December 2014, President Barack Obama and then-Cuban President Raúl Castro announced that they would begin normalizing relations between the two countries and would establish diplomatic relations, an agreement that was enthusiastically embraced by the Cuban people; and

WHEREAS, President Obama removed Cuba from the United States state sponsors of terrorism list; and

WHEREAS, most Americans, including Cuban Americans, oppose the United States embargo and tens of thousands have visited the island when travel restrictions were relaxed; and

WHEREAS, the Trump administration imposed 243 new sanctions upon Cuba, including restrictions on Cuban-Americans to send remittances to families and businesses in Cuba, and reinstated Cuba to the state sponsor of terrorism list; and

WHEREAS, for each of the last 29 years, the United Nations General Assembly has overwhelmingly voted to support the end of the United States blockade against Cuba; and

WHEREAS, despite campaign promises, President Biden has failed to reverse the sanctions that former President Trump imposed on Cuba;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that _____ urge(s) President Biden to restore diplomatic relations with Cuba, including restoring the full operations of the United States Embassy in Havana; and that the well-being of the Cuban people shall be the centerpiece of United States policies towards Cuba; and

Be It Further Resolved that _____ urge(s) President Biden and Congress to remove Cuba from the United States list of state sponsors of terrorism; and to immediately close the United States military base at Guantanamo Bay and return the occupied territory in Guantanamo to Cuba; and

Be It Further Resolved that _____ urge(s) President Biden and Congress to immediately reverse all sanctions against Cuba by the United States and end all aspects of the United States embargo against Cuba, including restrictions on travel to Cuba by U.S. citizens and residents, so that the peoples of Cuba and the United States can freely travel between the countries.