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A memorial to the Congress of the United States, requesting Congress to take appropriate actions to assist in the delivery of humanitarian assistance, to continue and intensify financial sanctions against the regime of Nicolás Maduro and the Government of Venezuela, and to instruct appropriate federal agencies to hold Nicolás Maduro and officials of the Government of Venezuela accountable for violations of law and abuses of internationally recognized human rights.

WHEREAS, the hallmark of democracy is the free and peaceful exercise of rights guaranteed under the constitution of a democratically elected government, and

WHEREAS, in an effort to secure his personal rule and oppress Venezuelan freedoms, Nicolás Maduro has caused elections to be manipulated, established an illegitimate Constituent Assembly to undermine the will of the Venezuelan people, nationalized private industry, abandoned private property rights, and improperly assumed control over Venezuela's government and its institutions, and

WHEREAS, the illegitimate regime of Nicolás Maduro has sought to silence peaceful opposition to his government by killing innocent citizens of Venezuela for their political views, and

WHEREAS, the deterioration of basic governance and the economic crisis in Venezuela have led to an unprecedented humanitarian situation in which people are suffering from severe

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shortages of basic food products and essential medicines, and WHEREAS, despite the massive shortages of basic food products and essential medicines, the illegitimate regime of Nicolás Maduro has rejected repeated requests from civil society organizations to bring humanitarian aid into that country, and

WHEREAS, over 8 million Venezuelans voted symbolically for a free and democratic government, and

WHEREAS, those who cherish democratic principles condemn the perpetration of oppression and intimidation against the Venezuelan people, and

WHEREAS, to ensure the demise of such oppression and intimidation, it is imperative that the United States Government remain committed to continuing and intensifying financial sanctions against the illegitimate regime of Nicolás Maduro and the Government of Venezuela, and

WHEREAS, the people of Florida stand proudly with the people of Venezuela in the face of tyranny, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

That the Congress of the United States is requested to take appropriate actions to assist in the delivery of humanitarian assistance, to continue and intensify financial sanctions against the illegitimate regime of Nicolás Maduro and the Government of Venezuela, and to instruct appropriate federal agencies to hold the illegitimate regime of Nicolás Maduro and officials of the Government of Venezuela accountable for violations of law and abuses of internationally recognized human rights.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be dispatched to the President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.