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15 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

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19 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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23 To declare the sense of the Council that the District of Columbia is committed to promoting the
24 human rights and well-being of all its residents, workers, and visitors; and to call on the
25 federal government to do the same.

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27 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
28 resolution may be cited as the "Sense of the Council Urging the Federal Government to End its
29 Embargo Against Cuba Resolution of 2019."

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31 Sec. 2. The Council finds that:

32 (1) The District of Columbia has long sought to ensure the equal protection of
33 human rights and well-being for all residents, workers, and visitors in our city.

34 (2) In February 1903, the United States government coerced Cuba into signing an
35 agreement on coaling and naval stations, enabling the U.S. to occupy Cuban territory in and
36 around Guantanamo Bay for up to 100 years.

37 (3) In May 1934, the United States government pressured Cuba to sign another
38 treaty that reaffirmed and extended the U.S.' lease of the territory in and around Guantanamo
39 Bay for its naval station in perpetuity, or until both parties agreed to terminate the lease.

40 (4) In 1960, the United States government imposed, via presidential executive
41 order, an economic, commercial, and financial embargo against Cuba.

42 (5) Later, in 1993 and 1996, the U.S. Congress passed two bills, Helms-Burton
43 and the Cuban Democracy Act, which codified and strengthened the embargo.

44 (6) In 2002, the United States established a military prison, the Guantanamo Bay
45 Detention Camp, on the premises of the naval base.

46 (5) Under the Obama administration, an agreement was reached between the U.S.
47 and Cuba to reestablish diplomatic relations between the two countries.

48 (6) Despite the executive actions of President Obama, the U.S. embargo continues
49 to be in place as are restrictions on travel by U.S. citizens to Cuba.

50 (7) In 2017, the Trump administration altered regulations, eliminating the
51 individual "people-to-people educational travel" category for U.S. citizens to qualify for a license
52 from the Treasury Department to travel to Cuba.

53 (8) Under President Trump, the U.S. has continued to significantly downscale the
54 diplomatic staff in the U.S. Embassy in Havana.

55 (9) The United States has, at times, engaged in hostile, aggressive, and sometimes
56 violent actions against Cuba as part of a regime-change program.

57 Sec. 3. It is the sense of the Council that:

58 (1) We reaffirm the District of Columbia's status as a guardian of human rights
59 and our intention to provide equitable opportunities for people from all walks of life by

60 promoting an inclusive and pluralistic community where everyone is treated with respect. We
61 call on Congress and the President to do the same.

62 (2) We declare our continuing commitment to our country's founding principles of
63 freedom and equality, and our intention to defend the safety, dignity, and liberty of all of our
64 residents and all people.

65 (3) We urge the President and Congress to act expeditiously to end all aspects of
66 the U.S. economic, commercial, and financial embargo against Cuba as well as end all
67 restrictions on travel to Cuba by U.S. citizens.

68 (4) We implore the President and Congress to quickly cease operations at
69 Guantanamo Bay and stop the U.S. regime-change programs against Cuba.

70 Sec. 4. The Secretary to the Council shall transmit copies of this resolution, upon its
71 adoption, to the Mayor, the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the
72 House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, and the Delegate from the District
73 of Columbia in the United States Congress.

74 Sec. 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.