

HM 1291

2020

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States and
3 the President of the United States, urging them to
4 grant temporary protected status to Venezuelans in the
5 United States.

6
7 WHEREAS, Venezuela is enduring an unprecedented economic,
8 humanitarian, security, and refugee crisis, consisting of
9 extreme food and medicine shortages, severe infant and child
10 malnutrition, rampant crime, and government-sponsored
11 repression, and

12 WHEREAS, Venezuela's economic crisis continues unabated,
13 and the International Monetary Fund estimates that the annual
14 inflation in Venezuela reached almost 265,000 percent in July
15 2019, and

16 WHEREAS, in 2017, the Office of the High Commissioner for
17 Human Rights reported the deaths of 124 persons in Venezuela
18 that could be attributed to violations of the right to freedom
19 of peaceful assembly, and, in July 2019, the office reported the
20 deaths of 66 persons during protests between January and May
21 2019, 52 of which were attributable to government security
22 forces or pro-government armed groups, and

23 WHEREAS, from September 2017 through April 2018, a review
24 of pharmacies in five major cities in Venezuela showed a
25 shortage of nearly 85 percent of medicine essential to treat

HM 1291

2020

26 | four of the most recurrent causes of morbidity in the country,
27 | including diarrhea, respiratory tract infections, diabetes, and
28 | high blood pressure, and

29 | WHEREAS, according to the Office of the High Commissioner
30 | for Human Rights, Venezuelan intelligence and security forces
31 | have increasingly used arbitrary arrests and detentions to
32 | repress and intimidate civil society, political opponents, and
33 | voices of dissent, and

34 | WHEREAS, in the June 2018 report published by the Office of
35 | the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein,
36 | the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, stated,
37 | "The failure to hold security forces accountable for such
38 | serious human rights violations suggests that the rule of law is
39 | virtually absent in Venezuela," and

40 | WHEREAS, according to United Nations figures, more than
41 | four million Venezuelans have fled the country, the largest
42 | exodus in the recent history of Latin America and the Caribbean,
43 | and

44 | WHEREAS, by early 2018, more than half of all Venezuelans
45 | had lost between 19 and 24 pounds, and today 90 percent of all
46 | Venezuelans do not have enough money to buy food and 60 percent
47 | live in extreme poverty, and

48 | WHEREAS, the minimum monthly wage in 2017 bought only 12
49 | percent of one Venezuelan's basic food needs, and by 2018

HM 1291

2020

50 | approximately 5,000 people per day were leaving Venezuela in
51 | search of food, and

52 | WHEREAS, the people of Venezuela are facing a dire need for
53 | temporary protected status, NOW, THEREFORE,

54 |

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

56 |

57 | That Venezuela is in a humanitarian crisis and the
58 | Legislature of the State of Florida condemns Venezuelan
59 | President Nicolás Maduro's authoritarian steps to undermine
60 | democratic institutions and urges the Congress of the United
61 | States and the President of the United States to grant temporary
62 | protected status to Venezuelans in the United States.

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