
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 70 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY GROVE, RYAN, KEEFER, DUSH, JAMES, ROTHMAN,
READSHAW, BERNSTINE, LEWIS, MILLARD, STAATS, SAYLOR, TOOHIL,
KAUFFMAN AND MACKENZIE, FEBRUARY 6, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, FEBRUARY 6, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Juan Guaidó as the lawful president and head of the
2 Government of Venezuela and condemning the socialist
3 government of the dictator Nicolás Maduro.

4 WHEREAS, Hugo Chávez Frías was elected President of Venezuela
5 in 1999; and

6 WHEREAS, Upon his election, Mr. Chávez worked to implement
7 21st century socialism within Venezuela; and

8 WHEREAS, To implement his socialist visions, Mr. Chávez
9 seized private companies without providing compensation; and

10 WHEREAS, The Government of Venezuela, in line with prior
11 socialist policies for central economic planning, placed
12 restrictions on the exchange of currency; and

13 WHEREAS, The Government of Venezuela imposed other socialist
14 policies such as a mandated minimum wage and price controls; and

15 WHEREAS, Following the seizure of private property and
16 nationalization of large parts of the economy, the economy of
17 Venezuela has been in a recession since 2010; and

18 WHEREAS, The socialist policies introduced and implemented by

1 Mr. Chávez were continued by his successor, Nicolás Maduro
2 Moros; and

3 WHEREAS, The economy of Venezuela now has a negative gross
4 domestic product and is struggling under hyperinflation; and

5 WHEREAS, Between 2017 and 2018, prices of goods in Venezuela
6 increased by more than 4,000%; and

7 WHEREAS, Since the adoption of the socialist policies of the
8 Bolivarian Revolution, which was the political process in
9 Venezuela led by Mr. Chávez, the Venezuelan people have faced a
10 rise in extreme poverty; and

11 WHEREAS, It is believed that 87% of Venezuelans live in
12 extreme poverty, even though Venezuela had been one of the most
13 prosperous countries in Latin America; and

14 WHEREAS, The rise in extreme poverty caused by socialism
15 within Venezuela has caused the average citizen of the country
16 to lose 24 pounds as the country starves; and

17 WHEREAS, Despite being ordered by the Government of Venezuela
18 to not report statistics on how many people had died of
19 starvation, the New York Times reported that at least 400
20 children had died of starvation in 5 months in 21 public
21 hospitals; and

22 WHEREAS, The continued decline of Venezuela caused by its
23 socialist government has created a humanitarian crisis, with
24 researchers predicting that 8 million refugees will flee
25 Venezuela in the next several years; and

26 WHEREAS, In comparison to the socialist outcomes of
27 Venezuela, the global advance of capitalism reduced extreme
28 poverty around the world from more than 53% in 1981 to 17% in
29 2011; and

30 WHEREAS, To maintain his authority, Mr. Maduro has engaged in

1 the tactics and policies of dictators; and

2 WHEREAS, These policies are assisted by the security and
3 intelligence apparatus supplied to the Maduro regime by the
4 Communist Government of Cuba; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Maduro has worked to rig elections and subvert
6 the once-democratic institutions and laws of Venezuela; and

7 WHEREAS, The Constitution of Venezuela states that in the
8 absence of a president, the head of the National Assembly shall
9 become interim president; and

10 WHEREAS, The most recent election in Venezuela has been
11 recognized by the community of nations as being both rigged and
12 illegitimate and has left the nation of Venezuela without a
13 legitimate president; and

14 WHEREAS, In accordance with the Constitution of Venezuela, in
15 the absence of an elected president following the most recent
16 election, Juan Gerardo Guaidó Márquez, as the head of the
17 National Assembly, is the legal President of Venezuela; and

18 WHEREAS, Despite Mr. Maduro having rigged the most recent
19 presidential election, organizations such as the Democratic
20 Socialists of America have come out against the policies of the
21 Trump Administration on Venezuela; and

22 WHEREAS, The Democratic Socialists of America condemned the
23 Obama Administration for sanctions against the Maduro regime;
24 therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
26 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recognize Juan Guaidó as the lawful
27 president and head of the Government of Venezuela and condemn
28 the socialist government of the dictator Nicolás Maduro; and be
29 it further

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the

1 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania commend President Donald J. Trump
2 for recognizing Juan Guaidó, the head of the National Assembly,
3 as the Interim President of Venezuela; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
5 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge all nations to recognize Juan
6 Guaidó as the rightful and lawful head of the Government of
7 Venezuela; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
9 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania condemn the socialist regime of
10 Nicolás Maduro for its violent attacks on protestors which have
11 left more than 20 individuals dead; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
13 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania condemn socialism itself as a
14 failed ideology based in greed that is responsible for some of
15 the worst suffering in human history, including the humanitarian
16 crisis in Venezuela; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
18 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the people and elected
19 officials of the United States to support the United States
20 policies regarding the Government of Venezuela; and be it
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
23 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania condemn the Democratic Socialists
24 of America for the continued support of the tyrannical Maduro
25 regime, which has left thousands dead and millions starving; and
26 be it further

27 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
28 the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of
29 each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from
30 Pennsylvania.