STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION 2017-114

TITLE: Resolution Supporting the Venezuelan Student Association in Fundraising to Support Those Individuals Who Peacefully Protest for a Free Venezuela

AUTHOR (S): Senator Dylan Santalo

SPONSOR (S): Student Body Vice President Mario Agosto, Judiciary Chairwoman Emily Dempsey, Co-Chomp the Vote Agency Heads Jacob Faubion and Natalia Ortega, STAAR Agency Head Evelyn Veras, Senator Jonathan Nickas, Senator Brett Oehrle, Senator Marcela Astudillo, Senator Erick Boldt

WHEREAS, Venezuela is currently in political and economic crises, which have caused a rapid increase in crime rates, food and medicine shortages, anti-government protests, and protest related violence[i]; and,

WHEREAS, after 18 years of the United Socialist Party and former President Hugo Chavez’s reign, President Nicolas Maduro took office to continue the "Chavista" policies in 2013[ii]; and,

WHEREAS, the United States Government condemns the March 29th ruling, which denies Venezuelan citizens the means to choose their elected officials and allows the Supreme Court to seize power from the National Assembly[iii]; and,

WHEREAS, under President Maduro’s leadership, the country has seen an increase in democratic political prisoners and a decrease in oil prices; and,

WHEREAS, the Venezuelan opposition is also fighting for a means to bring in more medication into the country, a just general elections process, and the release of all political prisoners[iv]; and,
WHEREAS, the Venezuelan Student Association partnered with multiple non-profit organizations to start up a drive to collect supplies and send them over to Venezuela to help those who are peacefully protesting for freedom and civil rights; and,

WHEREAS, they sent these supplies over to medical students at the Central University of Venezuela to tend to the affected individuals; and,

WHEREAS, the Venezuelan Student Association also recently partnered with the organization Venezuelans in Gainesville to create an international polling location, allowing local Venezuelan citizens to express their opinions on the current referendum[v]; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the impacts that international events can have on students and their families.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate supports the families of our fellow gators who are dealing with “political, economic, and humanitarian crises[vi]” abroad, as is the case in Venezuela.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate supports the Hispanic Student Association and Venezuelan Student Association in their efforts to help those individuals who are engaging in peaceful protests for freedom.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Parrott, Interim Dean of Students Heather White, Multicultural and Diversity Affairs Director of Hispanic-Latino Affairs Gabe Lara, President of the Hispanic Student Association Robert Lemus, & President of the Venezuelan Student Association Oreana Ramirez.

Jackie Phillips
Senate President

7/26/17
[i] https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/venezuela-crisis


[iii] https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2017/03/269332.htm


[vi] https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2017/03/269332.htm