



HR0539

LRB101 14614 MST 63525 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, In 2015, President Barack Obama restored U.S. diplomatic relations with the Republic of Cuba and issued regulatory changes that allowed increased commercial relations and a move towards normalization of travel to Cuba for American citizens; these changes were widely supported by businesses in Illinois and the United States; and

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WHEREAS, The administration of President Donald Trump has imposed new restrictions on American travel, remittances, intellectual exchanges, and trade with Cuba, reversing the Obama administration's normalization of relations with Cuba; and

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WHEREAS, Under the new Trump rules, a number of visits by individuals to Cuba will no longer be allowed; citizens from the United States will no longer be able to travel to Cuba under the popular people-to-people license once recognized by the U.S. Department of Treasury; as articulated by a number of Illinois and U.S. organizations, these actions are a tragic blow for U.S. citizens' freedom to travel; and

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WHEREAS, Along with cruise ships, the United States has also banned private planes and boats from traveling to Cuba from the U.S.; and

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1 WHEREAS, The Trump rules "are intended to steer economic
2 activities away from the Cuban military, intelligence and
3 security services" and "encourage the government to move toward
4 greater economic freedom for the Cuban people"; and

5 WHEREAS, The people of Cuba are now suffering economically,
6 even more than before, due to the change in U.S. policy; Cuba
7 is a different country than it was in 1959, and the Cuban
8 people deserve the opportunity for open trade with other
9 countries; normalizing the relationship between the United
10 States and Cuba could help the infant small private businesses
11 in Cuba and provide opportunities for the citizens and
12 businesses of Illinois; and

13 WHEREAS, Illinois has shown two decades of bi-partisan
14 effort in encouraging U.S. normalization with Cuba for the
15 benefit and enrichment of the people of Cuba and Illinois,
16 which includes commerce and mutual cultural understanding;
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
19 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
20 we urge President Trump to return to normalizing the
21 relationship between the United States and Cuba; and be it
22 further

1 RESOLVED, That we urge Governor Pritzker to lead a
2 delegation to visit Cuba in support of the Cuban people as soon
3 as possible; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
5 delivered to President Donald Trump and Governor JB Pritzker.