

House Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States,
 urging Congress to oppose the Biden Administration's
 removal of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia
 (FARC) from the United States Department of State's
 list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations.

WHEREAS, Colombia is among the oldest standing democracies
 in Latin America, and

WHEREAS, the United States established diplomatic relations
 with Colombia in 1822, and

WHEREAS, Colombia is a constitutional republic where the
 people of Colombia hold the power and elect representatives to
 exercise that power, and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of State placed the
 Revolutionary Forces of Colombia (FARC) on the list of Foreign
 Terrorist Organizations in 1997, and

WHEREAS, after many years of violence and armed conflict,
 in 2021, Colombia is the United States' strongest ally in Latin
 America, and

WHEREAS, with the support of the United States and the
 State of Florida, Colombia has transformed itself from a
 volatile and near-failed state in 2001 into a rich democracy
 with a growing free market in 2021, and

WHEREAS, May 15, 2022, will mark the 10-year anniversary of

26 | the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement, which has
 27 | supported economic growth and employment opportunities in
 28 | Colombia, the United States, and the State of Florida, and

29 | WHEREAS, the State of Florida is responsible for roughly a
 30 | quarter of all trade between the United States and Colombia, and

31 | WHEREAS, the United States, the State of Florida, and
 32 | Colombia share a commitment to promoting security, prosperity,
 33 | human rights, and democracy in Colombia and across the Western
 34 | Hemisphere, and

35 | WHEREAS, in recent years, the Colombian government has
 36 | taken courageous steps to enforce the law, stop drug
 37 | traffickers, and rein in foreign terrorist organizations like
 38 | the National Liberation Army (ELN) and FARC, and

39 | WHEREAS, the State of Florida continues to support the
 40 | efforts of the Colombian government for peace, its support for
 41 | human rights defenders, its provision of greater educational
 42 | opportunities, its increases in public and private investments,
 43 | and its respect for human rights and the rule of law, and

44 | WHEREAS, the United States maintains a strong commitment to
 45 | cooperating with the Colombian government to investigate,
 46 | arrest, and prosecute members of transnational criminal
 47 | organizations and to dismantle terrorist groups like the ELN,
 48 | FARC, and Hezbollah, whose illicit activities, specifically
 49 | narcotrafficking, devastate Colombian and other Latin American
 50 | societies, and

51 WHEREAS, Colombia is an essential partner with the United
 52 States in continuing efforts to support the courageous people of
 53 Venezuela in their fight for freedom, democracy, and economic
 54 prosperity against the dictatorship of Nicolás Maduro, and

55 WHEREAS, enemies of freedom, such as the communist regime
 56 in Cuba and the Maduro regime in Venezuela, exploit and abuse
 57 vulnerable individuals and promote violent unrest, vandalism,
 58 and destruction of property against individuals simply asking to
 59 be heard, and

60 WHEREAS, the Biden Administration revoked the designation
 61 of FARC as a foreign terrorist organization in November 2021,
 62 and

63 WHEREAS, FARC has murdered, tortured, and kidnapped
 64 innocent Colombians and committed gross violations of human
 65 rights, and

66 WHEREAS, FARC opposes democratic institutions and those who
 67 have fought for them, and

68 WHEREAS, FARC has committed and supported terrorism and
 69 continues to do so, and

70 WHEREAS, the Colombian government later ratified an
 71 agreement with FARC without the approval of the electorate, NOW,
 72 THEREFORE,

73
 74 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
 75

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2022

76 That the Florida House of Representatives declares its firm
77 commitment to Colombia, the United States' strongest ally in
78 Latin America, and urges Congress to oppose the Biden
79 Administration's removal of FARC from the list of Foreign
80 Terrorist Organizations.

81 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida House of
82 Representatives urges Congress to use all means possible,
83 including divestiture, to impede ties, commercial or otherwise,
84 with FARC.

85 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
86 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
87 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
88 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
89 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.