

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 97

Reaffirming the importance of the United States relationship with the
Dominican Republic.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 4, 2021

Mr. ESPAILLAT submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Reaffirming the importance of the United States relationship
with the Dominican Republic.

Whereas the Dominican Republic is a crucial partner to the
United States in hemispheric affairs, which includes bi-
lateral trade, diplomacy, tourism, and security coopera-
tion, and it is vital to not only maintain but also continue
to foster this strong and special relationship;

Whereas the strength of the relationship between the United
States and the Dominican Republic is rooted in political,
economic, and cultural ties which have continuously so-
lidified since the Dominican Republic first gained inde-
pendence in 1844;

Whereas, as the first major wave of Dominican migrants to
the United States began in the 1960s and has continued
throughout the decades since, there are over 2 million

people of Dominican descent who now live in the United States, currently making the Dominican-American community the fifth-largest Hispanic group in the United States;

Whereas support between the nations is reciprocal, and the United States is committed to its continued support, both in words and actions, to the Dominican Republic's democratic and economic development;

Whereas the United States greatly benefits from all the valuable contributions made by the Dominican community and Dominican culture, literature, music, dance, and sports;

Whereas the sport of baseball, commonly known as "America's favorite pastime", is a major source of pride and cultural identity for the Dominican Republic, and as one of the most significant contributors to Major League Baseball, Dominicans not only currently represent 11.6 percent of all Major League Baseball starters, but also represent some of the greatest players of all time, including Hall-of-Famers Juan Marichal, Pedro Martínez, and Vladimir Guerrero;

Whereas the Dominican Republic is the largest economy in both the Caribbean and Central America regions, and the United States is the Dominican Republic's largest trade partner;

Whereas one of the top contributing factors to the Dominican Republic's economy is remittances, most of which originate from the United States, accounting for 77.4 percent of the remittances the Dominican Republic received in 2018;

Whereas one of the greatest examples of both nations' strong commitment is the Central America-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) trade agreement, resulting in stronger trade and investment ties, which has also strengthened the relationship and furthered the economic prosperity of both countries;

Whereas the highest and lowest elevations in the West Indies are found within the Dominican Republic's major mountain ranges and the fertile valleys which contribute to the country's agricultural export sector;

Whereas in addition to trade potential, the Dominican Republic's mountain terrain, along with its beautiful beaches and other geographically unique landscapes, create significant tourism potential;

Whereas tourism is one of the most important sectors in the Dominican Republic's economy, and Americans account for over 30 percent of international travelers visiting the country, comprising 2 million of the 6.6 million who visited in 2018;

Whereas Americans can continue to safely enjoy all that the Dominican Republic has to offer, as the country has announced new safety measures, including thousands more tourist agents, national police, and public security cameras; and

Whereas the Dominican Republic has also entered into a partnership with United States-based Ecolab, which will provide training and certification to all Department of Tourism Services and Companies inspectors: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that—

1 (1) under the umbrella of the congressionally
2 approved bipartisan and bicameral Friends of the
3 Dominican Republic Caucus, the United States Con-
4 gress will continue its focus on strengthening the re-
5 lationship between the United States and the Do-
6 minican Republic;

7 (2) relations between the United States and the
8 Dominican Republic have led to expanded economic
9 prosperity, shared cultures, and increased regional
10 stability;

11 (3) the Dominican Republic is a safe, reliable,
12 and hospitable tourist destination that travelers
13 from the United States and countries around the
14 world can enjoy without concern; and

15 (4) the United States and the Dominican Re-
16 public are committed to a continued partnership,
17 further economic prosperity, and enhanced security
18 and stability in the region.

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