

1                   **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE**  
2                   **UNDEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA**

3                                   2022 GENERAL SESSION

4                                   STATE OF UTAH

5                                   **Chief Sponsor: Jordan D. Teuscher**

6                                   Senate Sponsor: Lincoln Fillmore

7	Cosponsors:	Dan N. Johnson	Travis M. Seegmiller
8	Cheryl K. Acton	Karianne Lisonbee	V. Lowry Snow
9	Kera Birkeland	Steven J. Lund	Christine F. Watkins
10	Brady Brammer	Jefferson Moss	Douglas R. Welton
11	Joel Ferry	Candice B. Pierucci	Ryan D. Wilcox
12	Stephen G. Handy	Susan Pulsipher	
13	Jon Hawkins	Judy Weeks Rohner	
	Ken Ivory		

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15                   **LONG TITLE**

16                   **General Description:**

17                   This resolution strongly condemns the undemocratic government of Venezuela.

18                   **Highlighted Provisions:**

19                   This resolution:

- 20                   ▶ strongly condemns Nicolás Maduro's regime for its violation of the basic human
- 21 rights of countless Venezuelans;
- 22                   ▶ calls upon the government of Venezuela to reject socialism and restore democracy;
- 23                   ▶ supports and stands in solidarity with the people of Venezuela and their fight to
- 24 achieve freedom and democracy;
- 25                   ▶ urges the United States federal government to take substantive action to ensure
- 26 Maduro's resignation and a peaceful transition to democracy in Venezuela; and
- 27                   ▶ encourages Utah schools and higher learning institutions to teach Utah students

28 about these current events and the dangers of socialism and authoritarian regimes.

29 **Special Clauses:**

30 None

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32 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

33 WHEREAS, the collapse of democratic governance and the proliferation of political  
34 corruption, criminal violence, failed economic policies, and hyperinflation have created a  
35 devastating humanitarian crisis in Venezuela;

36 WHEREAS, the majority of Venezuela's citizens lack access to essential medicines and  
37 basic food supplies;

38 WHEREAS, in September 2020 a United Nations mission found that Nicolás Maduro  
39 and his regime have carried out thousands of extrajudicial murders of peaceful dissidents and  
40 political opponents since Maduro's rise to power in 2013;

41 WHEREAS, the Maduro regime has a demonstrated track record of holding fraudulent  
42 elections over the last five years;

43 WHEREAS, on December 6, 2020, the regime of Nicolás Maduro held fraudulent  
44 legislative elections for Venezuela's National Assembly that did not comply with international  
45 standards for free, fair, and transparent electoral processes;

46 WHEREAS, the Maduro regime has detained hundreds of political prisoners in  
47 dangerous and inhumane conditions across Venezuela, including a Utah native, who was freed  
48 in 2018;

49 WHEREAS, the Maduro regime's security forces continue to engage in torture and  
50 sexual abuse of political prisoners and members of their families to stoke terror and repress  
51 pro-democracy efforts in Venezuela;

52 WHEREAS, the Maduro regime has increased arbitrary detention and intimidation of  
53 journalists, frontline workers, and legislators to silence criticism of the regime's mishandling of  
54 the COVID-19 pandemic;

55 WHEREAS, the average Venezuelan lost 24 pounds of body weight in 2017 due to

56 widespread poverty and food shortages;

57 WHEREAS, the Maduro regime has consistently restricted the ability of nonprofits and  
58 humanitarian aid organizations to assist Venezuelans in need of basic foodstuffs and hygiene  
59 items;

60 WHEREAS, to date, these deteriorating conditions have led over 5.6 million  
61 Venezuelans to leave their country, making it the second-largest external displacement crisis in  
62 the world; and

63 WHEREAS, Utah is home to thousands of Venezuelan asylees, refugees, and citizens  
64 of Venezuelan descent, many of whom long to return to their native country if political  
65 conditions improve:

66 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
67 Governor concurring therein, strongly condemns Nicolás Maduro's regime for its violation of  
68 the basic human rights of countless Venezuelans.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor call upon the  
70 government of Venezuela to reject socialism and restore democracy.

71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor support and stand  
72 in solidarity with the people of Venezuela and their fight to achieve freedom and democracy.

73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge the United  
74 States federal government to take substantive action to ensure Maduro's resignation and a  
75 peaceful transition to democracy in Venezuela.

76 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor encourage Utah  
77 schools and higher learning institutions to teach Utah students about these current events and  
78 the dangers of socialism and authoritarian regimes.

79 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the members of  
80 Utah's congressional delegation.