

STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION 2019-101

TITLE: Resolution Recognizing the Installment of Juan Guaidó as Interim President of Venezuela

AUTHOR(S): Allocations Chairwoman Katie Hernandez, Senator Stephanie Beltran, Senator Melissa Andrade, Senator Mauricio Perez

SPONSOR(S): Hispanic Student Association President Brenda Villanueva, VENZA President Daniel Nunez, Senator Mateo Haydar, Senator Derlis Leyva, Student Body Vice President David Enriquez, Chomp the Vote Chairman Dylan Santalo, Senator Matthew Diaz, Senator Maysen Calzon

WHEREAS, in 2013, President Nicolas Maduro took office in Venezuela after the death of his socialist mentor, Hugo Chavez; and,

WHEREAS, in 2017, there were 6,726 protests across Venezuela which were against the Maduro regime and these protests left a death toll of 163 individuals; and,

WHEREAS, these protests and political outspokenness were motivated by the poor socioeconomic climate perpetuated by Maduro's administration that resulted in an inflation rate of +1,000,000% since the "Bolivarian Revolution" took place; and, ¹

WHEREAS, the Venezuelan constitution mandates a new president be sworn in on January 10, 2019, and President Maduro held contested elections the year prior; and,

WHEREAS, Article 233 of the Venezuelan Constitution states, "The President of the Republic shall become permanently unavailable to serve by reason of any of the following events: death; resignation; removal from office by decision of the Supreme Tribunal of Justice; permanent physical or mental disability certified by a medical board designated by the Supreme Tribunal of Justice with the approval of the National Assembly; abandonment of his position, duly declared by the National Assembly; and recall by popular vote"²; and,

WHEREAS, the constitution states that the President of the National Assembly is to assume the role of interim president until a clear and legitimate election is held to fill the office and as of January 10, 2019, the Venezuelan people had not yet filled the presidency with a leader whose people granted him legitimacy; and,

WHEREAS, on January 23rd, 2019, tens of thousands of Venezuelans in the capital and around the world participated in a protest led by the President of the National Assembly, Juan Guaidó, against the legitimacy of Maduro's re-election; and,

WHEREAS, on that day, the leader of the legislature, Juan Guaidó, declared himself acting president and said he would assume the powers of the executive branch from there onwards, promising a transitional government and free elections to end the rule of the socialist Maduro regime; ⁴ and,

WHEREAS, the Parliament of the European Union and all its subsequent member states, the Organization of American States, the United States, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and various other states all recognize Juan Guaidó as the new interim President of Venezuela; and,

WHEREAS, the Venezuelan community of Gainesville is large and voted 1007 to 1 against Maduro's administration in the 2017 elections; and,

WHEREAS, on January 24th, 2019, 200 members of the Gainesville Venezuelan community rallied at Bo Diddley Plaza to support government protests across Venezuela as well as the new interim president; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the University of Florida Student Senate supports the Hispanic Student Association and Venezuelan Student Association in their efforts to provide a home to students on campus and educate the student body.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the University of Florida Student Senate is in support of the appointment of Juan Guaidó as the Interim President in an effort to seek freedom and equality in Venezuela.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED, that the University of Florida Student Senate supports all Venezuelan Gators and their families who have been affected by the political climate of Venezuela.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Venezuelan Student Association President Daniel Nunez, Hispanic Student Association President Brenda Villanueva, Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Dave Parrott, Dean of Students Heather White, & Multicultural and Diversity Affairs Director Will Atkins

[1] <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jan/23/venezuela-protests-thousands-march-against-maduro-as-opposition-sees-chance-for-change>

[2] <https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2019/01/288542.htm>

[3] <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-01-23/brazil-canada-join-trump-backing-guaido-as-venezuela-president>

[4] <https://bigthink.com/strange-maps/which-countries-support-maduro-guaido>

[5] <https://www.wuft.org/news/2017/07/18/gainesville-venezuelans-express-opposition-to-maduros-government/>

 2/7/19

Michael Murphy
Senate President

Date