

R037-0405

10 **RESOLUTION CONCERNING ENDING THE EMBARGO ON TRADE WITH**
20 **CUBA**

30 **WHEREAS:** The Helms-Burton Act, passed in 1996, put into law all existing
40 sanctions against Cuba, including the original embargo imposed by
50 President John F. Kennedy in 1962; and,

60 **WHEREAS:** Under the embargo, U.S. companies are forbidden to trade with Cuba
70 and foreign subsidiaries of American companies are barred from
80 engaging in new commerce with Cuba; and,

90 **WHEREAS:** According to the Cuba Policy Foundation, “U.S. farmers have been
100 losing up to \$1.24 billion a year in potential sales to Cuba because of
110 the embargo”; and,

120 **WHEREAS:** The strengthening of the embargo with the Helms-Burton Act prompted
130 Cuban authorities to respond with harsh legislation which has been
140 used to condemn prisoners of conscience; and,

150 **WHEREAS:** According to the UN Population Fund, “the decades-long economic
160 embargo has exacerbated the situation and contributed to a further
170 deterioration of the quality of life of the Cuban population” and
180 UNICEF is “unequivocal about the negative impact of the embargo”;
190 and,

200 **WHEREAS:** Sanctions have been least successful at promoting the fall of regimes or
210 the overthrow of dictators, in part because the elites who could
220 engineer a coup are well insulated from the hardship that sanctions
230 create and,

240 **WHEREAS:** Stigmatizing states – even those hostile to U.S. interests like Cuba –
250 reduces Washington’s ability to engage them when it is conducive to
260 U.S. interests to do so and undercuts international support for U.S.
270 efforts to confront these states; and,

280 **WHEREAS:** States that engage in freer trade will find it exceedingly difficult to
290 suppress other aspects such as an even freer exchange of ideas; and,

300 **WHEREAS:** Former President Jimmy Carter stated in a speech on U.S.-Cuban
310 relations, “the U.S. policy objective of a peaceful transition to a stable,
320 democratic form of government and respect for human rights in Cuba
330 gone unmet. After four decades, the U.S. embargo has failed to
340 produce meaningful political and economic reforms in Cuba.”

350 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the
360 United States Congress to repeal the Helms-Burton Act and to end the
370 embargo on trade with Cuba, insofar as to permit the trade of non-
380 military related products with Cuba.

390 **MANDATES:** President George W. Bush
400 Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice

SPONSOR:

Kevin Rodkey, University of Maryland, College Park

COSPONSORS:

Dan Holler, Tory Caucus Leader, Washington College
Holly Brownley, Co-DCP of St. Mary's College
Matthew Penick, University of Maryland, Baltimore County