



**RON DESANTIS**  
GOVERNOR

**IN SUPPORT OF FREEDOM FOR VENEZUELA**

WHEREAS, the military dictatorship under Nicolas Maduro has unlawfully usurped the power from the people of Venezuela who yearn for the return of democracy, human and civil liberty to their country; and

WHEREAS, the people of Venezuela have peacefully and bravely marched on the streets of their country denouncing the tyrannical Maduro regime; and

WHEREAS, the Maduro regime willfully violates all tenants of political transparency, arbitrarily arresting political dissenters and protesters, curtailing the free press; and

WHEREAS, the Maduro regime has plundered the country's rich natural resources creating economic despair and a humanitarian crisis that is adversely affecting the South American continent, as well as the Venezuelan people; and

WHEREAS, Maduro's economy proves once again that the socialist experiment is a total failure, relying on brutal power to retain control; and

WHEREAS, the Organization of American States recognizes that representative democracy is an indispensable condition for the stability, peace and development of the region; and

WHEREAS, the principles of human rights belong to all and respect for the rule of law, free elections, political pluralism represented by political parties and organizations as basic tenants of democracy should be supported especially in our Western Hemisphere; and

WHEREAS, the Organization of American States' diplomatic efforts to engage the Maduro regime in meaningful dialogue with various pro-democracy groups in Venezuela was rebuffed; and

WHEREAS, the United States has taken steps to address the national emergency that exists with respect to Venezuela resulting in numerous sanctions against Maduro and in support of the people of Venezuela; and

WHEREAS, the United States and many free nations of the world support Venezuela's Interim President Juan Guaidó, who was previously elected President of the National Assembly of Venezuela, the only duly elected leader of the country exercising legitimate authority in Venezuela; and

WHEREAS, the people of Florida support democracy; and

WHEREAS, Florida is home to thousands of Venezuelans who have been forced to flee their country under threat of persecution.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, that I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, on February 1, 2019, pledge solidarity with the people of Venezuela and support the Interim President of Venezuela Juan Guaidó who is the only person at this time legitimately able to restore peace, stability and democracy to the people of Venezuela.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida, to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 1st day of February, in the year two thousand nineteen.

A blue ink signature of Ron DeSantis, written over a horizontal line.

Governor