

S U B S T I T U T E

R E S O L U T I O N

Call for the U.S to remove Cuba from the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism (SSOT)

WHEREAS, In 1962, the United States under President John F. Kennedy began the imposition of a full trade embargo that has been estimated to cost Cuba's economy close to \$144 billion over the next sixty years; and

WHEREAS, In 2014, President Barak Obama and Cuban President Raúl Castro began to restore diplomatic ties and removed Cuba's designation on the list of state sponsors of terrorism (SSOT), first imposed in 1982, signaled the biggest change in U.S.- Cuba policy since diplomatic relations were first severed; and

WHEREAS, President Donald J Trump's administration in 2017 undid this progress by reinstating the travel and trade restrictions, and sponsored the U.S. State Department to add Cuba back to the list of state sponsors of terrorism (SSOT), without providing evidence to support the claims of acts of international terrorism; and

WHEREAS, These restrictive policies have abetted to further isolate Cuba and worsen their economic state, effectively preventing food, medicine, fuel, medical equipment and other humanitarian assistance from reaching Cubans, and directly impacted the Cuban healthcare system's ability to respond effectively to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, In 2021, 117 members of the U.S. Congress called for the removal of Cuba from the State Sponsor of Terrorism list noting in a letter; "a policy of engagement with Cuba serves U.S. interests and those of the Cuban people;" and

WHEREAS, The administration of President Joe Biden eased some of the restrictions such as the expansion of U.S. flights into Cuba, lifting the remittance cap for families and on May 15th, 2024, removed Cuba from the U.S State Department list of "not fully cooperating" with anti-terrorism efforts; and

WHEREAS, This move was seen as a step towards rapprochement, the consequences of being listed as a state sponsor of terrorism (SSOT) are more severe than being named as a "not fully cooperating" state, and as such has not led to immediate relief to the Cuban people or addressed the root cause of emigration from Cuba; and

WHEREAS, President Biden belatedly removed Cuba from the State Sponsor of Terrorism list in the final week of his administration, and President Donald J. Trump reinstated Cuba on the list by executive order on the first day of his new presidency; and

WHEREAS, The President has the authority to remove Cuba from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list by executive order, and to recommit to the normalization of relations with Cuba begun in 2014.

WHEREAS, Our colleagues have called for an end to the U.S. Embargos Against Cuban Trade and Travel, through R2020-612, we follow the steps of several municipalities including The District of Columbia, in addition to 10 Latin American and 14 Caribbean governments that have called for the same action, therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Mayor and members of the City of Chicago City Council, do hereby find that President Donald J. Trump remove Cuba from the State Sponsored of Terrorism list and enact a complete restoration of travel and trade between the two countries ending the United States' imposition of injustice and harm facing all sectors of Cuban society; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that suitable copies of this resolution be prepared and presented to the Hon. Richard J. Durbin, the Hon. Tammy Duckworth, the Illinois Congressional Delegation and the President of the United States of America.