

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 83

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO END THE ECONOMIC EMBARGO AGAINST CUBA, ELIMINATE THE TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ON UNITED STATES CITIZENS, REMOVE CUBA FROM THE LIST OF TERRORIST NATIONS AND RESUME NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA.

WHEREAS, in 2003 and the previous thirteen years the United Nations voted unanimously that the economic embargo placed on Cuba by the United States is immoral and unjust; and

WHEREAS, the United States has established normal diplomatic and trade relations with the government of Vietnam, the communist government of China and the governments of Russia and nations of the former socialist bloc; and

WHEREAS, trade agreements have been completed between Cuba and thirty-four states; and

WHEREAS, Cuba imports one billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000)

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1 of food annually, and opportunities exist for trade between New  
2 Mexico and Cuba; and

3 WHEREAS, the governor of New Mexico has stated his desire  
4 to expand international trade; and

5 WHEREAS, sister city relationships exist between Santa Fe,  
6 New Mexico, and Holguin, Cuba, and Las Vegas, New Mexico, and  
7 Banes, Cuba, through the United States and Cuba sister city  
8 association; and

9 WHEREAS, more cities in New Mexico have expressed interest  
10 in forming sister city relationships with cities in Cuba; and

11 WHEREAS, the congress of the United States voted in 2003  
12 to stop enforcement of the restrictions on travel to Cuba that  
13 deny United States citizens their constitutional right to  
14 travel; and

15 WHEREAS, in 2003 the world health organization recognized  
16 Cuba as the number one country in the world for primary health  
17 care; and

18 WHEREAS, since January 2000, Cuba has offered five hundred  
19 scholarships for United States students to study medicine in  
20 Cuba, and currently seventy-four United States students,  
21 including three students from New Mexico, are participating in  
22 the program; and

23 WHEREAS, allies of the United States, including the United  
24 Kingdom, Canada and France, have expressed that Cuba does not  
25 belong on the United States' list of states that support

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1 international terrorism; and

2 WHEREAS, the United States department of defense has  
3 confirmed that Cuba does not pose a threat to the security of  
4 the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, the democratic party of New Mexico passed a  
6 resolution urging the United States government to end the trade  
7 embargo blockade and resume normal diplomatic relations with  
8 Cuba; and

9 WHEREAS, in this time of global terrorism, the Cuban  
10 government has offered its assistance to the United States in  
11 combating global terrorism; and

12 WHEREAS, Cuba has extensive and friendly relations with  
13 its Latin American and Carribean neighbors;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
15 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the United States government be  
16 requested to end the economic embargo against Cuba, eliminate  
17 the travel restrictions on United States citizens, remove Cuba  
18 from the list of terrorist nations and resume normal diplomatic  
19 relations with Cuba; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
21 transmitted to the president and vice president of the United  
22 States, the secretary of state of the United States, the  
23 speaker of the United States house of representatives, the  
24 majority leader of the United States senate and the members of  
25 the New Mexico congressional delegation.

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