

Student Body Senate

Florida International University

Miami, Florida

S.R. 02 004

Ayuda Para el Pueblo Cubano Ya! (APPCY) Act

IN THE SENATE

June 12, 2021

Former Senate President Pro Tempore & CASE Senator Bryan Gomez, Senate President and Upper Division Senator Nicholas Pastrana, Executive Administrator Cristina Vale, Former Business Senator & FIU Alumnus Karla Sofia Perez, Student Body Vice President Alexandra Ibarria, Comptroller Giacomo Natteri, Former Chairman of the Rules and Administration Committee & CASE Senator Ari Salzman, CASE Senator Alex Benin, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee & SIPA Senator Alexander Sutton, Chairwoman of the Rules and Administration Committee & CASE Senator Daniela Cruz, Senate Floor Leader & Engineering Senator Cristhofer Lugo, Former SGA Senate President & SGA CASE Senator Janelle Fraga, Senate President Pro Tempore and Business Senator Maria Paz Grijalba introduced the following Resolution, which was presented on the Senate Floor,

A RESOLUTION

To denounce the Cuban government and support the people of Cuba in their efforts to protest against the authoritarian communist regime,

Be it enacted by the Senate of the Student Body at Florida International University assembled,



Bryan Gomez



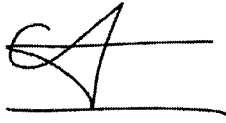
Nicholas Pastrana



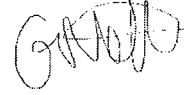
Cristina Vale



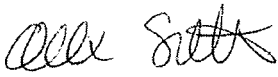
Karla Sofia Perez



Alexandra Ibarria



Giacomo Natteri



Alexander Sutton



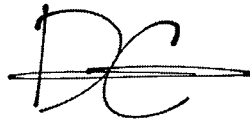
Ari Salzman



Alex Benin



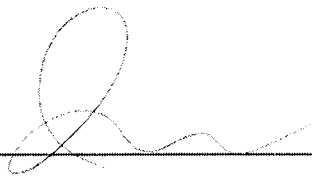
David Luis



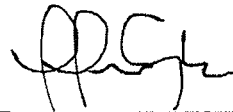
Daniela Cruz



Cristhofer Lugo



Janelle Fraga



Maria Paz Grijalba

Whereas, Miami Dade County is a predominantly Hispanic community, consisting of 1,996,774 Hispanics, or about 71.51% of the County's population¹, of which over half, about 1,040,032, are of Cuban descent²;

Whereas, the Cuban government touts a so-called excellent healthcare system, boasting the highest number of medical doctors per capita in the world, at 8.4 doctors for every 1,000 people³, yet horribly mismanaged the COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic, with many accusing the government of disastrous negligence;

Whereas, Cuba has seen 56,137 new COVID cases since the 28th of June of this year⁴, with a total of 244,914 cases since the pandemic began⁵, leading to a staggering 20% of all cases resulting from the last two weeks alone;

Whereas, in the digital age, where an overwhelming majority of global events are shared on the Internet for all to behold, we share the awesome responsibility of highlighting injustices, at home and abroad, and must bring attention to crises such as the one unfolding in Cuba;

Whereas, in efforts to shift blame onto the United States' embargo against the regime, the Cuban Communist Regime has refused international humanitarian aid, choosing to allow its own people to die in order to make its point⁶;

Whereas, on June 11th, 2021 the Cuban people took to the streets to protest against the Government's abuse, with demonstrations beginning in the nation's capital, Havana, and quickly spreading to all parts of the country⁷;

Whereas, the Cuban government began brutalizing its own people, with hundreds of videos surfacing after the protests of June 11th showing police officers attacking demonstrators, shooting at crowds of men, women, children, and the elderly, and wearing civilian clothing to infiltrate peaceful protests and incite violence, to name a few;

Whereas, the Cuban government is an infamous human rights abuser, with the Human Rights Watch writing that "the Cuban government represses and punishes dissent and public criticism" and employs tactics such as "beatings, public shaming, travel restrictions, short-term detention,

¹ *Miami Matters - 2021 Demographics* | <http://www.miamidadematters.org/demographicdata>

² *Data USA Miami Dade County Profile* | <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/miami-dade-county-fl>

³ *The World Bank, Physicians (per 1,000 people)* | https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.MED.PHYS.ZS?most_recent_value_desc=true

⁴ *Wikipedia COVID-19 Pandemic by Country and Territory* | https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID-19_pandemic_by_country_and_territory

⁵ *Worldometer Cuba COVID-19 Data* | <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/cuba/>

⁶ *Behind Cuba's Covid Uprising* | <https://www.wsj.com/articles/behind-cubas-covid-uprising-11626042703>

⁷ *Cuba protests: Thousands rally against government as economy struggles* | <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-57799852>

finances, online harassment, surveillance, and termination of employment.⁸” As far as we know, most if not all of these tactics are currently being employed by the Cuban government;

Whereas, on June 11th, 2021 the people of Miami met on Calle Ocho in front of the Versailles restaurant to peacefully demonstrate their support for the Cuban people, to denounce the atrocities being committed by the Cuban Communist Regime, and to call for an international intervention to aid the Cuban people⁹;

Whereas, FIU boasts a 61% Hispanic population¹⁰ at the institution, with no small part of that population coming from Cuban immigrants and descendants of the same;

Whereas, FIU’s mission statement yet again highlights its commitment to “serving its students and the diverse population of South Florida¹¹,” which, as we established above, is largely of Cuban descent;

Whereas, FIU’s mission statement also establishes a commitment to “collaborative engagement with our local and global communities¹².”

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved That the Senate of the Student Body of Florida International University, in no uncertain terms, condemns, denounces, and expresses its total abhorrence of the Cuban Communist Regime, its leader, Miguel Diaz-Canel, and all who enable it;

Now Therefore, Be It Further Resolved That the Senate of the Student Body supports the protestors, demonstrators, and activists fighting to liberate Cuba from the Communist Dictatorship and believes that the government of the United States should intervene to help the people of Cuba;

Now Therefore, Be It Further Resolved That The Senate of the Student Body holds that, as is its duty, as a vessel of the will of the Student Body, the Student Government Association will immediately and publicly make this stance known through all avenues available to it, including but not limited to social media platforms, on-campus virtual screens such as the ones found throughout the Graham Center, public demonstrations, and any additional medium deemed appropriate by the Student Body President.

⁸ *Human Rights Watch - Cuba, Events of 2020* | <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/cuba>

⁹ *Cubans Denounce ‘Misery’ in Biggest Protests in Decades* | <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/11/world/americas/cuba-crisis-protests.html>

¹⁰ *FIU - About Overview - University Demographics* | <https://www.fiu.edu/about/index.html>


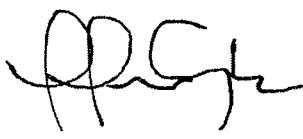
¹¹ *FIU - Vision and Mission* | <https://www.fiu.edu/about/vision-and-mission/index.html>

¹² *Ibid.*

Senate Resolution Transmission Form

This Resolution is presented by the Senate of the Student Body at Florida International University presiding in its second session in the year 2021. It is presented by the Senate President Pro-Tempore and affixed with the signature of the Senate President. Both the Senate President and the Senate

President Pro-Tempore affirm that the information presented below is accurate and that the resolution has successfully passed in the Senate of the Student Body. The resolution is presented on this day and this hour for signature or veto.

<i>SR 02 004</i>			
Date Introduced:	07/13/2021		
Committees Assigned	Committee on Rules and Administration <i>Committee 1</i>	Student Life and Academic Concerns Committee <i>Committee 2</i>	N/A <i>Committee 3</i>
Vote in Committee 1	3 <i>For</i>	0 <i>Against</i>	0 <i>Abstaining</i>
Vote in Committee 2	4 <i>For</i>	0 <i>Against</i>	0 <i>Abstaining</i>
Vote on the Senate Floor	0 <i>For</i>	0 <i>Against</i>	0 <i>Abstaining</i>
			
Signature of the Senate President		Signature of the Senate President Pro-Tempore	

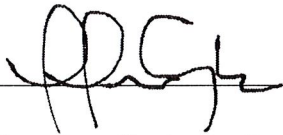
Presidential Signature of a Senate Resolution

On This day, at this time, and in this place, The Senate of the Student Body at Florida International University does hereby present this resolution to the desk of the President of the Student Body for Signature or Veto. The Senate has passed this resolution and all its accompaniments, in accordance with the Constitution and Statutes of the Student Government Association at Florida International University. It is presented in good faith, whereas the officers of the Senate have affixed their Signatures to affirm that the resolution has followed due procedure and is valid. The Senate will await your decision.

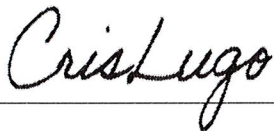
SR 02 004



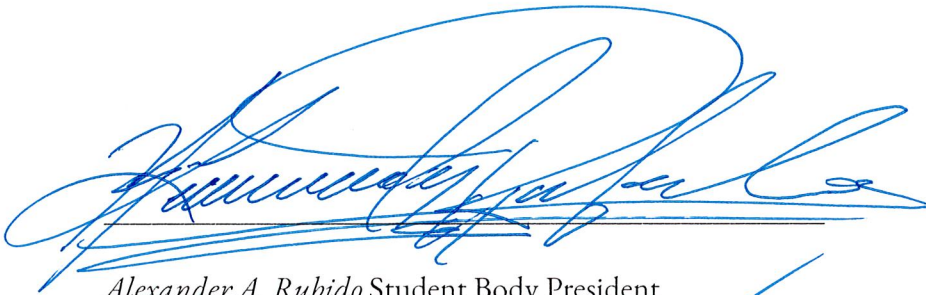
Nicholas Pastrana Senate President



Maria Paz Grijalba Senate President Pro-Tempore



Cristhofer Lugo Senate Floor Leader



Alexander A. Rubido Student Body President



Approved

Vetoed