

**A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN END TO THE U.S. EMBARGO AGAINST CUBA, AND FOR THE OPENING UP OF NEW TRADE AND TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.**

WHEREAS in 1960, the United States government imposed a strict economic, commercial and financial embargo on the Republic of Cuba, and

WHEREAS on December 17, 2014, U.S. President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro agreed to reestablish diplomatic relations between the two countries, as well as cooperation between them on certain matters of mutual interest, and

WHEREAS nevertheless, despite executive decisions by President Obama which eased some restrictive regulations, the main portions of the embargo affecting trade and travel continue in force, and

WHEREAS full restoration of trade and travel between the two countries would be of great benefit to both, particularly in the areas of food production, education, health care, tourism, the arts, music sports and medical and biotechnological research, and

WHEREAS the city of Chicago would greatly benefit by the restoration of trade with the Republic of Cuba, which would permit the export of industrial and agricultural products to the neighboring nation of 11 million people, and the importation of Cuban products useful to Chicago like the life-saving medicines Herberprot-p and CIMAvax and

WHEREAS institutions and businesses in Chicago have expressed a strong interest in selling their products and services to Cuba, importing Cuban products, and cooperating with Cuban institutions in the areas of the development of pharmaceuticals and medical devices and procedures, and biomedical research, to the benefit of our citizens, and

WHEREAS nevertheless, the administration of President Donald Trump, instead of moving toward expansion of the initiatives on Cuba undertaken by his predecessor, has increased travel and economic restrictions and expelled from the United States the greater part of the staff of the Cuban embassy in Washington DC, and

WHEREAS the Trump administration has failed, unlike its predecessors, to wave the clause in the Helms-Burton Act which allows lawsuits against foreign companies that do business with formerly private businesses in Cuba which were nationalized after the Cuban Revolution, and has threatened to impose even harsher economic restrictions on trade and travel between Cuba and the United States, and

WHEREAS the harsh Cuba policies of the Trump administration are hard on families in both Cuba and in the Cuban-American community in the United States, inasmuch as they divide families who have members in both countries, and they unfairly restrict the ability of Cuban-Americans to send financial help (remittances) to their relatives in Cuba, and

WHEREAS the people of the Chicago are also negatively affected by these new restrictions, which violate their right to travel and which harm economic opportunities for our people which enhanced trade with Cuba would bring us,

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the City of Chicago deplores the embargo and travel restrictions as prejudicial to the interests of the people of Cuba, of the United States and of Chicago, and a violation of the rights of U.S. citizens and residents to travel and find out the real situation in Cuba for themselves, and

Be it further resolved that the current U.S. policy toward Cuba is a special manifestation of disrespect to the African American people of our area, whose roots are so closely intertwined with those of the Cuban people, and

Be it further resolved that Chicago will not cooperate in any way with the administration's anti-Cuba policies, and

Be it further resolved that Chicago urges President Trump to renew engagement with the Republic of Cuba, as initiated by the previous administration, and rescind the new restrictive regulations, as well as allowing the restoration of staffing of the Cuban embassy in Washington DC, and the U.S. embassy in Havana, and

Be it further resolved that the Chicago urges the United States Congress to pass legislation finally ending the unsuccessful and harmful 59 year old economic, financial and commercial embargo, as well as the travel restrictions on U.S. citizens and residents to Cuba, and Cuban citizens to the United States, and

Be it finally resolved that this resolution be distributed to the congressional delegation representing Chicago in Washington DC, and the executive branch of the U.S. government, with the urgent request that they act upon it as soon as possible.