

**SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE OF VENEZUELA AS
THEY PROTEST PEACEFULLY FOR DEMOCRATIC
CHANGE AND CALLING TO END THE VIOLENCE**

MARKUP
BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

H. Res. 488

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CONTENTS

	Page
MARKUP OF	
H. Res. 488, Supporting the people of Venezuela as they protest peacefully for democratic change and calling to end the violence	2
Amendment in the nature of a substitute to H. Res. 488 offered by the Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen	7
Amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H. Res. 488 offered by the Honorable Matt Salmon, a Representative in Congress from the State of Arizona, and chairman, Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere	12
LETTERS, STATEMENTS, ETC., SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD	
APPENDIX	
Markup notice	20
Markup minutes	21
Markup summary	22
The Honorable Alan Grayson, a Representative in Congress from the State of Florida: Prepared statement	23

**SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE OF VENEZUELA AS
THEY PROTEST PEACEFULLY FOR
DEMOCRATIC CHANGE AND CALLING
TO END THE VIOLENCE**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2014

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:06 a.m., in room 2172, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Matt Salmon (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. SALMON. The subcommittee will come to order. Pursuant to notice for purposes of markup, I call up H. Res. 488, a resolution supporting the people of Venezuela as they protest peacefully for democratic change and calling to end the violence. Without objection, the measure is considered read and open for amendment at any point.

Before recognizing myself and other members for statements, I am going to call up Ros-Lehtinen 39, the bipartisan amendment in the nature of a substitute, and ask unanimous consent that it be considered en bloc with the brief Salmon amendment that the members have before them.

Without objection, the amendment en bloc is considered read and open for amendment at any point.

[The information referred to follows:]

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 488

Supporting the people of Venezuela as they protest peacefully for democratic change and calling to end the violence.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 25, 2014

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. SALMON, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SIRES, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. YOHO, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Supporting the people of Venezuela as they protest peacefully for democratic change and calling to end the violence.

Whereas the United States Government should support the free and peaceful exercise of representative democracy in Venezuela, condemning violence and intimidation against the country's political opposition, and calling for dialogue between all political actors in the country;

Whereas, on February 12, 2014, also known in Venezuela as the National Youth Day, students began protesting in several cities against anti-democratic decisions and the crippling economy made by Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro;

Whereas, on February 12, 2014, a judge issued an arrest warrant for Leopoldo López, leader of the opposition party Voluntad Popular, for baseless and unfounded allegations in connection with the student protests;

Whereas, on February 17, 2014, the Government of Venezuela notified the United States Department of State that it had declared 3 consular officers at the United States Embassy in Venezuela *personae non gratae*;

Whereas over the last year, the Government of Venezuela has expelled a total of 8 United States Government officials from Venezuela;

Whereas, on February 18, 2014, opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez turned himself in to Venezuelan authorities, was arrested, and charged with criminal incitement, conspiracy, arson, and intent to damage property;

Whereas Leopoldo Lopez is currently being held in a prison at a military facility;

Whereas according to Amnesty International, “The charges brought against Venezuelan opposition leader Leopoldo López smack of a politically motivated attempt to silence dissent in the country”;

Whereas the Venezuelan Government has blocked users’ on-line images as opposition groups marched through Caracas;

Whereas the Venezuelan people have been protesting economic, social, and political concerns facing their country, including corruption, rising inflation rates, unemployment, shortages of everyday products, increasing crime rates, and the erosion of human rights and respect for political dissent;

Whereas, on February 19, 2014, President Barack Obama criticized the Venezuelan Government for arresting protesters, called for their release, and urged the government to focus on the “legitimate grievances of the Venezuelan people”;

Whereas, as of February 20, 2014, there have been 13 people killed, over 100 injured, and many persons unjustly detained due to pro-democracy demonstrations throughout Venezuela;

Whereas Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro threatened to expel the United States news network CNN from Venezuela and has taken off the air the Colombian news channel NTN 24, which transmits in Venezuela, after news outlets reported on the nation-wide protests;

Whereas the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights released a statement on February 14, 2014, which “expresses its concern over the serious incidents of violence that have taken place in the context of protest demonstrations in Venezuela, as well as other complaints concerning acts of censorship against media outlets, attacks on organizations that defend human rights, and acts of alleged political persecution”; and

Whereas as a member of the Organization of American States and signatory to the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the Government of Venezuela has agreed to abide by the principles of constitutional, representative democracy, which include free and fair elections and adherence to its own constitution: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) supports the people of Venezuela in their
- 3 pursuit of freedom of expression and freedom of as-

1 assembly to promote democratic principles in Ven-
2 ezuela;

3 (2) deplores the inexcusable violence per-
4 petrated against opposition leaders and protesters in
5 Venezuela, and the growing efforts to use politically
6 motivated criminal charges to intimidate the coun-
7 try's political opposition;

8 (3) urges responsible nations throughout the
9 international community to stand in solidarity with
10 the people of Venezuela and to actively encourage a
11 process of dialogue between the Government of Ven-
12 ezuela and the political opposition to end the vio-
13 lence;

14 (4) urges the United States Department of
15 State to work in concert with other countries in the
16 Americas to take meaningful steps to ensure that
17 basic fundamental freedoms in Venezuela are in ac-
18 cordance with the Inter-American Democratic Char-
19 ter and to strengthen the ability of the Organization
20 of American States (OAS) to respond to the erosion
21 of democratic norms and institutions in member
22 states;

23 (5) urges the United States Department of
24 State to insist that the Secretary General of the
25 OAS immediately convene the OAS's Permanent

1 Council to seek the most effective way to expedi-
2 tiously end the violence in Venezuela in accordance
3 with the Inter-American Democratic Charter; and
4 (6) supports the Inter-American Commission on
5 Human Rights in calling upon the Venezuelan Gov-
6 ernment to “urgently adopt all measures that may
7 be necessary to guarantee the rights to life, humane
8 treatment, and security, as well as the political
9 rights, the right of assembly, and the rights of free-
10 dom of association and freedom of expression of ev-
11 eryone under its jurisdiction”.

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.RES.488
OFFERED BY MS. ROS-LEHTINEN OF FLORIDA**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas the United States Government should support the rule of law, and free and peaceful exercise of representative democracy in Venezuela, condemning violence and intimidation against the country's political opposition, and calling for dialogue between all political actors in the country;

Whereas, on February 12, 2014, also known in Venezuela as the National Youth Day, students began protesting in several cities Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro's inability to stem violent crime, his undemocratic actions, and a rapidly deteriorating economy marked by high inflation and shortages of consumer goods;

Whereas, on February 12, 2014, a judge issued an arrest warrant for Leopoldo López, leader of the opposition party Voluntad Popular, for unfounded allegations in connection with the student protests;

Whereas, on February 17, 2014, the Government of Venezuela notified the United States Department of State that it had declared 3 consular officers at the United States Embassy in Venezuela *personae non gratae*;

Whereas over the last year, the Government of Venezuela has expelled a total of 8 United States Government officials from Venezuela;

Whereas, on February 18, 2014, opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez turned himself in to Venezuelan authorities, was arrested, and charged with criminal incitement, conspiracy, arson, and intent to damage property;

Whereas Leopoldo Lopez is currently being held in a prison at a military facility;

Whereas nongovernmental human rights organizations have alleged that the charges brought against Venezuelan opposition leader Leopoldo López appear to be a politically motivated attempt to silence dissent in the country;

Whereas the Venezuelan Government has blocked users' online images as opposition groups marched through Caracas;

Whereas the Venezuelan people have been protesting economic, social, and political concerns facing their country, including corruption, rising inflation rates, shortages of everyday products, increasing crime rates, and the erosion of human rights and respect for political dissent;

Whereas, on February 19, 2014, President Barack Obama criticized the Venezuelan Government for arresting protesters, called for their release, and urged the government to focus on the "legitimate grievances of the Venezuelan people";

Whereas, as of February 26, 2014, there have been 14 people killed, over 100 injured, and many persons unjustly detained in relation to pro-democracy demonstrations throughout Venezuela;

Whereas Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro threatened to expel the United States news network CNN from Venezuela and has taken off the air the Colombian news

channel NTN 24, which transmits in Venezuela, after news outlets reported on the nation-wide protests;

Whereas the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights released a statement on February 14, 2014, which “expresses its concern over the serious incidents of violence that have taken place in the context of protest demonstrations in Venezuela, as well as other complaints concerning acts of censorship against media outlets, attacks on organizations that defend human rights, and acts of alleged political persecution”; and

Whereas as a member of the Organization of American States and signatory to the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the Government of Venezuela has agreed to abide by the principles of constitutional, representative democracy, which include free and fair elections and adherence to its own constitution: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) supports the people of Venezuela in their
2 pursuit of freedom of expression and freedom of as-
3 sembly to promote democratic principles in Ven-
4 ezuela;

5 (2) deplores acts which constitute a disregard
6 for the rule of law, the inexcusable violence per-
7 petrated against opposition leaders and protesters in
8 Venezuela, and the growing efforts to use politically

1 motivated criminal charges to intimidate the coun-
2 try's political opposition;

3 (3) urges responsible nations throughout the
4 international community to stand in solidarity with
5 the people of Venezuela and to actively encourage a
6 process of dialogue between the Government of Ven-
7 ezuela and the political opposition to end the vio-
8 lence;

9 (4) urges the United States Department of
10 State to work in concert with other countries in the
11 Americas to take meaningful steps to ensure that
12 basic fundamental freedoms in Venezuela are in ac-
13 cordance with the Inter-American Democratic Char-
14 ter and to strengthen the ability of the Organization
15 of American States (OAS) to respond to the erosion
16 of democratic norms and institutions in Venezuela;

17 (5) urges the Organization of American States
18 and its Inter-American Commission on Human
19 Rights to utilize its good offices and all mechanisms
20 at its disposal to seek the most effective way to ex-
21 peditiously end the violence in Venezuela in accord-
22 ance with the Inter-American Democratic Charter;
23 and

24 (6) supports the Inter-American Commission on
25 Human Rights in calling upon the Venezuelan Gov-

1 ernment to “urgently adopt all measures that may
2 be necessary to guarantee the rights to life, humane
3 treatment, and security, as well as the political
4 rights, the right of assembly, and the rights of free-
5 dom of association and freedom of expression of ev-
6 eryone under its jurisdiction”.

Amend the title so as to read: “A resolution sup-
porting the people of Venezuela as they protest peacefully
for democracy, a reduction in violent crime and calling
for an end to recent violence.”.



AMENDMENT TO THE
AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.RES. 488
OFFERED BY MR. SALMON

On page 4, line 24, and following, strike section (6) and replace with the following:

“(6) supports efforts by international and multilateral organizations to urge the Venezuelan Government to adopt measures to guarantee the rights to life, humane treatment, and security, and the political freedoms of assembly, association, and expression to all of the people of Venezuela”.

Mr. SALMON. All members may have 5 days to insert remarks on this measure into the record should they choose to do so. I now recognize myself to speak briefly on this bill and amendment.

Our neighbor to the south, Venezuela, suffers from one of the worst murder rates in the world, crushing inflation rates of over 56 percent, regular electrical blackouts and shortages in everyday items such as milk, flour, and even toilet paper. All of this is in the face of a country who enjoys one of the world's largest deposits of oil reserves. Clearly the Venezuela people deserve far better.

For several weeks now many of us have watched in horror as protesters in Venezuela have taken to the streets to peacefully express their frustrations and a desire for change. They have been brutally attacked by elements of their government and government-aligned thugs on motorcycles. This has led to the tragic death of at least 14 individuals, over 100 people injured, and many more who have been unjustly detained for exercising their universal right to voice their aspirations for democracy, freedom, basic human rights, and adherence to the rule of law.

We bring up this bipartisan resolution today in that spirit, and we call upon the State Department, the Organization of American States and other parties in the hemisphere to join us in pushing for an end to this useless violence, to fully support the rule of law, and to promote a more transparent democratic process in Venezuela.

Although the world's attention has been focused more vividly on the crisis in Ukraine, the stakes in Venezuela are no less important. This is about freedom. It is a nation squarely in our very neighborhood, and, until its most recent history, had a long and proud tradition of adhering to democratic norms, and was even an ally of the United States. Continued instability there adversely affects Venezuela and the entire region and could well lead to violence and instability well beyond their boundaries.

I want to thank the committee's chairman emeritus, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, for her undying support for freedom and democracy any-

where on the planet, especially in our hemisphere, and for pushing for the passage of this timely and important resolution.

I also want to thank the full committee Ranking Member Engel and subcommittee Ranking Member Albio Sires for working with us to craft a solid, bipartisan attempt to put our words and our voices behind those Venezuelans who aspire to make Venezuela a better country for their fellow citizens.

And I now recognize the ranking member.

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Chairman, I thank you for holding this markup to consider this important resolution calling for an end to violence and supporting the people of Venezuela's right to express their frustration toward the deteriorating economic, public safety, and political conditions in the country. Rather than allow the space and freedom for peaceful demonstration, President Maduro has instead utilized oppressive Cuban tactics in silencing the media, detaining antigovernment demonstrators, and arresting opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez.

Like his predecessor, Mr. Maduro has also attempted to deflect unwarranted blame against the United States by expelling U.S. Embassy personnel. And now, instead of peacefully mediating the differences with the thousands of antigovernment demonstrators that have grown tired of rising crime, inflation, shortages of basic goods, and limit the freedoms of expression, Mr. Maduro has proposed an oddly timed diplomatic exchange with our country.

Mr. Maduro and the Government of Venezuela need to address the grievances of its people through meaningful dialogue that respects the space and expression of contrasting points of view.

I am particularly disturbed and saddened by the unfortunate loss of life that has resulted from the demonstrations, and echo the international community's condemnation of the Venezuelan Government's unnecessary and inappropriate use of force against the demonstrators. However, it is unfortunate that some nations exalting democratic virtues within the hemisphere can turn a blind eye to these physical and human rights abuses.

I am a proud cosponsor of House Resolution 488, supporting the people of Venezuela in these difficult and uncertain times. I join my colleagues in the international community in imploring the Government of Venezuela to respect the freedom of expression and assembly, and peaceful engagement of opposition.

I thank my good friend Chairman Salmon and Chairman Emeritus Ros-Lehtinen for their leadership and steadfast efforts in advancing this resolution, which I urge my colleagues to support. Thank you.

Mr. SALMON. Thank you.

The Chair now entertains any others seeking recognition.

The former chairman of the full committee, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Well, thank you so much, Mr. Chairman, thank you, Ranking Member, for marking up this timely and important bipartisan resolution in support of the people of Venezuela in their pursuit of freedom and democracy. The situation in Venezuela as we have seen has rapidly deteriorated, so I thank you both as well as the colleagues on the committee who recognize the importance of supporting democracy in Venezuela. I also would like to thank the full committee chairman, Mr. Royce, and the ranking

member, Mr. Engel, for their efforts, which have been instrumental in ensuring that this bipartisan measure enjoys the amount of support that it currently does.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the hard-working and dedicated staff members that have helped pave the way for this resolution: Tom Sheehy, Edward Burrier, Jason Steinbaum, Mark Walker, Leah Campos, Ramon Zertuche, Eric Jacobstein, and so many others. Thank you, thank you.

H. Res. 488 is not about Venezuela; it is also about who we are as a Nation. We often take for granted the freedoms that we enjoy as Americans, but when we witness events like those happening in Venezuela, where Maduro silences dissent by unleashing his state thugs on innocent civilians who march for freedom and democracy, killing and injuring those who have had the temerity to call for reforms, we are reminded of just how great America is.

And so when we see students of Venezuela take to the streets, and take to social media, begging and pleading to the world to speak up and take notice, we have a moral obligation to stand up and support them. And that is what this resolution does. It tells the hundreds of thousands, even millions of Venezuelans who yearn for freedom and for liberty, the United States hears you. The United States knows what you are going through, and we will support you and support your fundamental human rights, because that is what America does everywhere. We speak up for those who are being silenced and oppressed.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and to support the American ideals of freedom, justice, rule of law, protection of human rights, and I thank our colleagues in the Senate, Senators Bob Menendez, Marco Rubio, and Dick Durbin. They have a measure that mirrors ours, so this shows that this is a bipartisan, bicameral measure.

I am also writing a letter to President Obama and asking for co-signers, requesting that he hold Venezuelan officials accountable for their human rights abuses. I am asking President Obama, pursuant to applicable U.S. law, to deny visas to enter the U.S. to Venezuelan officials who commit human rights violations, block their property, freeze their assets in the U.S., prohibit them from conducting U.S. financial transactions with U.S. businesses and institutions. And, in addition, I plan on introducing a bill next week that will codify these measures into law, and I urge my colleagues to support both of these efforts.

And for this resolution, Mr. Chairman, that is before us, we have worked with our Department of State in drafting this resolution.

Thank you very much for the time.

Mr. SALMON. I thank the gentlewoman from Florida. Are there any other members seeking recognition?

Mr. Meeks.

Mr. MEEKS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I come here deeply concerned about what is taking place in Venezuela. And for me, I thought it was important to be here because of my relationship with Venezuela in the past. Many probably know that I am one of the few Members of Congress that had a relationship with the former Hugo Chavez and happen to know the current President Nicolas Maduro. But what I see taking place on

the streets of Venezuela is not the expressions—or not allowing expressions of freedom and discontent to take place, and violence and death deeply concerns me.

I was in Latin America last week, and I talked to a number of heads of states from various countries, and they are deeply concerned, some, believe it or not, who are allies and had been working with Venezuela. But even they are concerned at what is taking place in Venezuela now.

I think that I had a moral obligation to be here today to speak up against what is taking place, because when I think in my own lifetime when African-Americans stood up in the streets to protest what they thought was—something that was not democratic, we wanted someone to stand and say, take our side, help us, stand up and say what is right.

So when I see that there are individuals—and I know that there are people in Venezuela on both sides of the issues, but everybody should have the right to express themselves. Everyone should have the right to try to make sure that they, too, have a voice. And when I see violence being utilized to stop the individuals from expressing themselves—and I know Venezuelans, because I have been to elections, and I have seen them line up, both the opposition and Chavistas, in huge long lines to vote. That is what should happen. And people should be able to go in the streets and express their discontent. Government should not come down and stop those or silence those voices, and people should not have to die.

So we have an obligation, I do believe, when we see people dying in the streets simply because they want to express themselves, they want to express and put pressure on their government. That is what democracies are all about, putting pressure on your government. We have disagreements here, but we don't go in the streets. We don't allow the government—we don't want our government to utilize violence to silence those voices. So I felt compelled.

Generally I don't come and sign up with many of these resolutions. I looked at the resolution and I said, basically it is a fair resolution. You can tell it is a resolution that was worked on in a bipartisan manner. And I just felt it was important to call on voices to be heard on all sides of this, especially my voice.

You know, Dr. King said one time, it is those voices that were silent that would not speak out against injustice which concerns us most. This is clearly an injustice that is taking place now. And, again, in the words of Dr. King, "Injustice anywhere is a threat of justice everywhere."

So I join this resolution in a bipartisan manner, and I thank the chairman and the former chairwoman on your work. I was told by the ranking member how you made sure that we were inclusive. You worked with the State Department. You made sure that there was language in there from both sides and tried to do it in a balanced way. So I come today to join this resolution, and say, please, stop the violence. Let the voices be heard. Let democracy ring. Let there be justice.

And I yield back.

Mr. SALMON. I thank the gentleman for his impassionate speech.

In many ways, as I look at what is happening in Ukraine and Venezuela, this is 1776. That is what is happening in their country,

and it is totally about freedom. And if we can't stand for that, then what do we stand for?

The Chair recognizes the gentleman Jeff Duncan.

Mr. DUNCAN. I thank the chairman and the former chairwoman for lending their voice to this, and I strongly support the resolution. I am proud to be an original cosponsor.

You know, multiple protests have occurred in Venezuela with thousands of people gathering to staunchly reject the status quo in Venezuela. In response to peaceful protests by students, President Maduro has used lethal force that has resulted in the deaths of more than a dozen Venezuelans. Many more have been wounded, and even more jailed by the regime.

But I am going to tell you what, Mr. Chairman. I am inspired by a former retired military officer in Venezuela, General Angel Vivas, who stands in defiance at his own home, in defiance of his arrest by President Maduro. And he says here, I have the right to self-defense. He has become a folk hero for standing in defiance of the government.

Economic conditions continue to worsen. There have been rumors that Cuban troops have been assisting the Venezuelan Government in managing the protest. I am concerned the U.S. Government is not doing enough to stand in solidarity with the Venezuelan people who seek freedom and opportunity, and I second the comment you just made, Mr. Chairman, that this is Venezuela's 1776 moment. You and I had the conversation that in the Ukraine and in Venezuela, folks are seeking self-governments. They are resisting oppression and seeking liberty.

The U.S. has a strategic national security interest in Venezuela. It is in our hemisphere, but Venezuela is a mere 3-hour flight from U.S. soil, a major transit route for cocaine, heroin destined for the U.S. It possesses deep ties to FARC, Cuba, Russia, and Iran, and has allowed these actors influence in ways that are harmful to U.S. interests.

Secondly, Venezuela has large proven reserves of oil estimated in 2013 at 297 billion barrels. The economy in Venezuela should be more robust than it is. There is a Wall Street Journal front-page article today that shows lines of Venezuelans in line for basic commodities at the supermarket. They have gone weeks, if not months, without toilet paper. The bread lines are very evident. But this article talks about President Maduro calling for Carnival season to begin early, folks to go to the beaches and start partying. Is this not President Maduro's let-them-eat-cake moment? When the folks in Venezuela are suffering, he has the opportunity, and the power, and the economy and the tools in the economy to do things differently.

I think the United States has not only a vested interest, I think we have an obligation, as the beacon of liberty in the free world, to support the Venezuelans. I think that is what this resolution does. I think it is a great first step in urging the Department of State to take credible actions to respond to the erosion of freedom in Venezuela.

I think we can do more. I have an amendment that I am not going to offer today, but hopefully we can consider sanctions on

Venezuela going forward. I think that is important, that is a tool that we can use.

And so I want to end my comments with thanking you for your leadership on this issue. I want to thank retired General Vivas for his stance, inspiring Venezuelans, inspiring me, as a beacon of someone that understands private property rights and understands what the word "liberty" really means.

So I look forward to swift passage of this, and I yield back.

Mr. SALMON. Boy, if the public out there doesn't understand in a bipartisan way that this group stands for freedom, they never will understand anything.

Does the Representative from Florida seek recognition?

Mr. DESANTIS. Briefly, Mr. Chairman.

I just want to thank you, thank the ranking member for working on this, and thanks to my friend from Florida for all of her work. She is constantly supporting the freedom of people around the world, but particularly in our hemisphere.

Look, the people of Venezuela are speaking out against a dysfunction and repression that is being brought about by the nation's Havana-directed Socialist leaders. America should stand with the people in Venezuela. America should stand for individual liberty. And I am happy to support this resolution so that Congress can demonstrate on behalf of the American people our solidarity with the people of Venezuela, who are being oppressed by a corrupt regime.

So thank you for working on this. Thank you for doing this. I do agree it is a good first step. This is a critical moment for them, and we have to be on the side of those who are aspiring to self-government and individual liberty. And I yield back.

Mr. SALMON. I thank the gentleman. Are there any amendments to the en bloc amendment?

Okay. Hearing no further amendments, the question is on agreeing to the en bloc amendment.

All those in favor, say aye.

Opposed, say no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it, and the en bloc agreement is agreed to.

The question now occurs on adopting the H. Res. 488, as amended.

All those in favor, say aye.

Opposed, say nay.

Again, in the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it, and the amended resolution is agreed to.

Without objection, H. Res. 488, as amended, is reported favorably to the full Committee on Foreign Affairs, and staff are directed to make any technical and conforming changes.

That concludes our business, and, without objection, the subcommittee stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 10:26 a.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]

A P P E N D I X

MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

**SUBCOMMITTEE MARKUP NOTICE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6128**

**Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere
Matt Salmon (R-AZ), Chairman**

February 26, 2014

TO: MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

You are respectfully requested to attend an OPEN meeting of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, to be held by the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere in Room 2172 of the Rayburn House Office Building (and available live on the Committee website at <http://www.ForeignAffairs.house.gov>):

DATE: Friday, February 28, 2014

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

MARKUP OF: H. Res. 488, Supporting the people of Venezuela as they protest peacefully for democratic change and calling to end the violence.

By Direction of the Chairman

The Committee on Foreign Affairs seeks to make its facilities accessible to persons with disabilities. If you are in need of special accommodations, please call 202/225-3021 at least four business days in advance of the event, whenever practicable. Questions with regard to special accommodations in general (including availability of Committee materials in alternative formats and assistive listening devices) may be directed to the Committee.



2/28/2014 Western Hemisphere Subcommittee Markup Summary

The Chair called up H. Res. 488 for consideration by the Subcommittee.

1. H. Res. 488 (Ros-Lehtinen), "Supporting the people of Venezuela as they protest peacefully for democratic change and calling to end the violence."

By unanimous consent, two amendments were considered *en bloc* and agreed to by voice vote:

- a. Ros-Lehtinen 39 (amendment in the nature of a substitute offered by Rep. Ros-Lehtinen); and

- i. A second degree amendment offered by Rep. Salmon to Ros-Lehtinen 39.

H. Res. 488, as amended, was agreed to by voice vote and by unanimous consent was ordered favorably reported to the Full Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The Subcommittee adjourned.



PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE ALAN GRAYSON, A REPRESENTATIVE IN
CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF FLORIDA

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And thank you, Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen, for authoring this legislation. I'm proud to be an original co-sponsor of this resolution.

Given the recent escalation of violence in Venezuela, I'm relieved that the subcommittee is moving forward with this legislation quickly.

In Venezuela, peaceful protests have been met with brute force. People are fighting for rights that Americans consider fundamental: the right to petition the government, the right to speak and organize freely, the right to a democratic government.

Innocent people, simply seeking to have their voice heard, are being intimidated, injured, or imprisoned. Venezuelans are suffering at the hands of an oppressive militarized environment, and many have been forced to make extraordinary personal sacrifices in their quest for freedom and democracy.

This resolution puts Venezuela's government on notice: the violence and intimidation must end, immediately.

And for the people in Venezuela – our friends, family, and neighbors – know that you have the support of the U.S. Congress and the American people. We are watching. We care. And we will help.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution. Thank you.

