

(ii) ensuring that investments in these communities enable—

(I) the creation of good jobs with family-sustaining wages;

(II) economic ownership opportunities that close the racial wealth gap;

(III) pollution reduction;

(IV) climate resilience;

(V) small business support;

(VI) economic opportunities for independent family farmers and ranchers; and

(VII) the expansion of public services;

(iii) ensuring that affected communities have the power to democratically plan, implement, and administer these projects;

(iv) prioritizing local and equitable hiring and contracting that creates opportunities for—

(I) people of color;

(II) immigrants, regardless of immigration status;

(III) formerly incarcerated individuals;

(IV) women;

(V) LGBTQIAP+ individuals;

(VI) disabled and chronically ill individuals; and

(VII) marginalized communities; and

(v) providing access to quality workforce training, including through registered apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships to ensure real pathways to good careers, including those that have historically been inaccessible;

(D) strengthening and healing the nation-to-nation relationship with sovereign Native Nations, including by—

(i) making systemic changes in Federal policies to honor the environmental and social trust responsibilities to Native Nations and their Peoples, which are essential to tackling society's economic, environmental, and health crises;

(ii) strengthening Tribal sovereignty and enforcing Indian treaty rights by moving towards greater recognition and support of the inherent self-governance and sovereignty of these nations and their members; and

(iii) promulgating specific initiatives that reflect the nuanced relationships between the Native Nations, including—

(I) the confirmation by Congress that Tribal nations can exercise their full and inherent civil regulatory and adjudicatory authority over their own citizens, lands, and resources, and over activities within their Tribal lands;

(II) the codification of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent as it relates to Tribal consultation; and

(III) the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, without qualification;

(E) combating environmental injustice and ensuring healthy lives for all, including by—

(i) curtailing air, water, and land pollution from all sources;

(ii) removing health hazards from communities;

(iii) replacing lead pipes to ensure clean water is available to all;

(iv) remediating the cumulative health and environmental impacts of toxic pollution and climate change;

(v) ensuring that affected communities have equitable access to public health resources that have been systemically denied, which includes—

(I) upgrading unhealthy and overcrowded homes, public schools, and public hospitals;

(II) ensuring access to healthy food, mental health support, and restorative justice; and

(III) investing in universal childcare, care for individuals with disabilities, senior care, and a robust care workforce; and

(vi) focusing these initiatives in Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities that have endured disproportionately high death

rates from COVID-19 due to higher exposure to air pollution and other cumulative health hazards as a result of decades of environmental racism;

(F) averting climate and environmental catastrophe, including by—

(i) contributing to a livable climate and environment for today and for future generations, including by—

(I) staying below 1.5 degrees Celsius of global warming;

(II) building climate resilience to keep communities safe; and

(III) ensuring sustainable resource use;

(ii) deploying investments and standards in the electricity, transportation, buildings, manufacturing, lands, and agricultural sectors to spur the largest expansion in history of clean, renewable energy, emissions reductions, climate resilience, and sustainable resource use;

(iii) transforming the power sector in order to move the country, by not later than 2035, to carbon pollution-free electricity that passes an environmental justice screen to prevent concentrating pollution in Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities;

(iv) prioritizing materials and parts that meet high labor, environmental, and human rights standards throughout the supply chain;

(v) supporting sustainable, domestic production of healthy, nutritious food that pays independent farmers and ranchers a fair price for their land stewardship; and

(vi) ensuring that funding under this Agenda goes to workers and communities affected by the economic and environmental crises, not to corporate fossil fuel polluters;

(G) ensuring fairness for workers and communities affected by economic transitions by—

(i) guaranteeing that workers and communities in industries and regions in economic transition due to COVID-19, climate change, and other economic shocks receive—

(I) stable wages and benefits, including full pension and healthcare;

(II) early retirement offerings;

(III) crisis and trauma support; and

(IV) equitable job placement; and

(ii) investing in transitioning areas to support—

(I) economic diversification;

(II) high quality job creation;

(III) community reinvestment;

(IV) retooling and conversion;

(V) reclamation and remediation of closed and abandoned facilities and sites;

(VI) child and adult care infrastructure; and

(VII) funding to shore up budget shortfalls in local and State governments; and

(H) reinvesting in public sector institutions that enable workers and communities to thrive by—

(i) rebuilding vital public services and strengthening social infrastructure in cities and counties, healthcare systems, schools, the postal service, and other services;

(ii) investing in equitable public education opportunities, including career and technical education pathways that prepare youth—especially girls; Black, Brown, and Indigenous students; students with disabilities; students from low-income families; and other students from marginalized groups—for high-quality jobs of the future, and state of the art technology and schools, so that from the beginning students are prepared to transform society and preserve democracy;

(iii) investing in the workers who provide care to children, the elderly, and communities burdened by neglect;

(iv) creating new public institutions, inspired by and improving upon New Deal-era institutions, to ensure universal access to critical resources and to strategically and

coherently mobilize and channel investments, in line with the above priorities, at the scale and pace that these times require; and

(v) coupling this institutional renewal with democratic governance and accountability to correct the systemic misallocation of resources and representation that prevents families and communities from meeting fundamental human needs and pursuing fulfilling lives.

SENATE RESOLUTION 44—DENOUNCING THE MADURO REGIME'S FRAUDULENT LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, THE ABSENCE OF ACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS TO ENSURE FREE, FAIR, AND TRANSPARENT ELECTORAL PROCESSES IN VENEZUELA, AND THE FURTHER EROSION OF VENEZUELAN DEMOCRACY

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 44

Whereas, on December 6, 2020, the regime of Nicolás Maduro held fraudulent legislative elections for Venezuela's National Assembly that did not comply with international standards for free, fair, and transparent electoral processes;

Whereas the Maduro regime sought to use fraudulent legislative elections to install a new National Assembly on January 5, 2021, in an effort to undermine Venezuela's National Assembly, which was democratically elected in 2015;

Whereas, pursuant to section 112 of the VERDAD Act of 2019 (22 U.S.C. 9702), it is the policy of the United States to recognize the democratically elected National Assembly of Venezuela, elected in December 2015 and sworn in on January 2016, as the only legitimate national legislative body in Venezuela;

Whereas the United States and more than 50 countries—including Canada, the 27 member countries of the European Union, and 21 members of the Organization of American States, among others—have expressed concern about the lack of legitimacy of the December 6, 2020, electoral process held in Venezuela and the Maduro regime's failure to meet international standards for a free, fair, and transparent election;

Whereas, on January 6, 2021, the European Union issued a public statement on the Maduro regime's December 6, 2020, legislative elections, stating that "the elections failed to comply with international standards" and that it does not recognize the electoral process as "credible, inclusive or transparent, nor . . . its outcome to be considered as representative of the democratic will of the Venezuelan people";

Whereas, on January 5, 2021, members of the Lima Group—including Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela—issued a joint declaration stating that the Lima Group does not "recognize the legitimacy or legality of the National Assembly installed on January 5, 2021. This illegitimate National Assembly is the product of the fraudulent elections of December 6, 2020, organized by the illegitimate regime of Nicolás Maduro.";

Whereas, on December 8, 2020, the International Contact Group—including Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, the European Union, France, Germany, Italy,

the Netherlands, Panama, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Uruguay—issued a public declaration stating that the Maduro regime's December 6, 2020, elections did not meet internationally accepted standards, "[n]or did they meet conditions required by Venezuelan laws," and that "they cannot recognise the results of this electoral process as legitimate or representative of the will of the Venezuelan people";

Whereas, on June 12, 2020, the Maduro regime's illegitimate Supreme Court unilaterally appointed new members to Venezuela's National Electoral Council without the approval of the democratically elected National Assembly;

Whereas, throughout 2020, the Maduro regime—

(1) sought to co-opt and undermine independent political parties through a campaign of systematic persecution; and

(2) used its discredited Supreme Court to strip independent political parties of their leadership, including Voluntad Popular, Primero Justicia, and Acción Democrática;

Whereas the Maduro regime has a demonstrated track record of holding fraudulent elections over the last four years;

Whereas, in May 2018, the Maduro regime held fraudulent presidential elections that were broadly criticized as illegitimate, leading more than 50 countries to recognize the end of Nicolás Maduro's term in office and the inauguration of National Assembly President Juan Guaidó as Interim-President of Venezuela on January 23, 2019;

Whereas, on July 30, 2017, the Maduro regime manipulated the results for Venezuela's Constituent Assembly by more than 1,000,000 votes, according to Smartmatic, the company that supplied Venezuela's electronic voting machines;

Whereas, according to the Venezuelan constitution, Juan Guaidó, as President of the National Assembly, serves as Venezuela's Interim President in the absence of a democratically elected president of Venezuela;

Whereas the conditions do not currently exist for the free, fair, and transparent election of new members of the National Assembly or the president of Venezuela;

Whereas, as of September 7, 2020, the internationally recognized nongovernmental organization Foro Penal confirmed that, out of the 110 individuals recently released from prison by the Maduro regime to serve out the remainder of their sentences under house arrest, 53 were political prisoners, and that currently 363 political prisoners remain unjustly detained by the Maduro regime without due process;

Whereas, on September 16, 2020, the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela found that Nicolás Maduro and senior members of his regime ordered and carried out a campaign of extrajudicial executions, forced disappearances, torture, and arbitrary detentions that amounted to systematic crimes against humanity;

Whereas the Maduro regime's efforts to hold fraudulent legislative elections, undermine the democratically elected National Assembly and independent political parties, and implement a campaign of state-sponsored violence and repression further erodes democracy and the rule of law in Venezuela; and

Whereas, as codified under section 4 of the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act (Public Law 113-278; 128 U.S.C. 3013), it is the policy of the United States "to support the people of Venezuela in their aspiration to live under conditions of peace and representative democracy as defined by the Inter-American Democratic Charter of the Organization of American States": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) denounces the Maduro regime's fraudulent legislative elections on December 6, 2020, as an effort to undermine Venezuela's democratically elected National Assembly;

(2) does not recognize the legitimacy of the National Assembly installed by the Maduro regime on January 6, 2021;

(3) joins members of the international community, including members of the Lima Group, the Organization of American States, and the European Union, in rightfully rejecting the Maduro's regime's fraudulent and illegitimate legislative elections on December 6, 2020;

(4) urges that presidential and legislative elections in Venezuela be conducted at the earliest possible date that conditions for international standards for free, fair, and transparent electoral processes, including credible international election observation, can be met;

(5) calls on the Maduro regime to cease its campaign of systematic persecution against Venezuela's independent political parties and their leadership;

(6) calls on the Maduro regime to immediately release all political prisoners, facilitate access by humanitarian organizations, and end its campaign of extrajudicial executions, forced disappearances, torture, and arbitrary detentions of political opponents, human rights defenders, civil society activists, peaceful protesters, and citizens; and

(7) takes note of the finding of the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela that the Maduro regime's campaign of state-sponsored violence and repression against the people of Venezuela amounted to crimes against humanity, and calls for Nicolás Maduro and senior members of his regime to be held accountable for their actions.

SENATE RESOLUTION 45—CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BROWN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. COONS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. SINEMA, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KING, Mr. BENNET, Ms. WARREN, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. REED, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. BURR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 45

Whereas, in 1776, people envisioned the United States as a new nation dedicated to the proposition stated in the Declaration of Independence that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness";

Whereas Africans were first brought involuntarily to the shores of the United States as early as the 17th century;

Whereas African Americans suffered enslavement and subsequently faced the injustices of lynch mobs, segregation, and denial of the basic and fundamental rights of citizenship;

Whereas, in 2021, the vestiges of those injustices and inequalities remain evident in the society of the United States;

Whereas, in the face of injustices, people of good will and of all races in the United States have distinguished themselves with a commitment to the noble ideals on which the United States was founded and have fought courageously for the rights and freedom of African Americans and others;

Whereas African Americans, such as Lieutenant Colonel Allen Allensworth, Maya Angelou, Arthur Ashe, Jr., James Baldwin, James Beckwourth, Clara Brown, Blanche Bruce, Ralph Bunche, Shirley Chisholm, Holt Collier, Miles Davis, Louis Armstrong, Larry Doby, Frederick Douglass, W. E. B. Du Bois, Ralph Ellison, Medgar Evers, Aretha Franklin, Alex Haley, Dorothy Height, Jon Hendricks, Olivia Hooker, Lena Horne, Charles Hamilton Houston, Mahalia Jackson, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, B.B. King, Martin Luther King, Jr., Coretta Scott King, Thurgood Marshall, Constance Baker Motley, Rosa Parks, Walter Payton, Bill Pickett, Homer Plessy, Bass Reeves, Hiram Revels, Amelia Platts Boynton Robinson, Jackie Robinson, Aaron Shirley, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Booker T. Washington, the Greensboro Four, the Tuskegee Airmen, Prince Rogers Nelson, Recy Taylor, Fred Shuttlesworth, Duke Ellington, Langston Hughes, Muhammad Ali, Elijah Cummings, Ella Fitzgerald, Mamie Till, Toni Morrison, Gwen Ifill, Diahann Carroll, Chadwick Boseman, John Lewis, Katherine Johnson, Rev. C.T. Vivian, Hank Aaron, Edith Savage-Jennings, Septima Clark, Mary McLeod Bethune, Cicely Tyson, John Hope Franklin, and Chief Justice of South Carolina Ernest Finney, along with many others, worked against racism to achieve success and to make significant contributions to the economic, educational, political, artistic, athletic, literary, scientific, and technological advancement of the United States;

Whereas the contributions of African Americans from all walks of life throughout the history of the United States reflect the greatness of the United States;

Whereas many African Americans lived, toiled, and died in obscurity, never achieving the recognition those individuals deserved, and yet paved the way for future generations to succeed;

Whereas African Americans continue to serve the United States at the highest levels of business, government, and the military;

Whereas the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass inspired the creation of Negro History Week, the precursor to Black History Month;

Whereas Negro History Week represented the culmination of the efforts of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the "Father of Black History", to enhance knowledge of Black history through *The Journal of Negro History*, published by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, which was founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson and Jesse E. Moorland;

Whereas Black History Month, celebrated during the month of February, originated in 1926 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a special period in February to recognize the heritage and achievements of Black people in the United States;

Whereas Dr. Carter G. Woodson stated, "We have a wonderful history behind us. . . . If you are unable to demonstrate to the