

Label: SGAR51001

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Sponsors: Sen. Sunil Motwani, Sen. Randall Williams, Sen. William Fischer, Sen. Tatiana Lutomski, Sen. Clint Kirchhoff, Sen. Nestor Garcia

Committee: Student Life

Draft: Passed

Student Government Association in Support of Human Rights in Venezuela, Ukraine, and all affected Students at the University of Houston

WHEREAS, recent events in Venezuela and Ukraine, characterized by protests expressing deep social and economic discontent carried upon by civic and student population alike, have drawn the concern of the world-wide community; and

WHEREAS, in the past years, Venezuela has been experiencing high poverty, high crime rates, and a deficit of resources for its citizens; and

WHEREAS, in the last three weeks, civilian citizens who have been peacefully protesting against the Venezuelan government have experienced violent aggressions including torture, rape, and battering, resulting in more than 39 deaths, more than 550 people injured, and more than 2082 people detained; and

WHEREAS, there have been violent clashes between the Ukrainian government and nonviolent protesters, resulting in more than 100 deaths and more than 1075 people injured; and

WHEREAS, many student groups in Venezuela and Ukraine have been active participants in these events; and

WHEREAS, the University of Houston is the second most ethnically diverse research college in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Venezuela lies 8th in countries of student origin at the University of Houston; and

WHEREAS, Many UH students have been active participants in recent protests in Austin in support of Venezuela and Ukraine; and

WHEREAS, there are dozens of international students from Venezuela and Ukraine and dozens of students whose original residence is Venezuela or Ukraine enrolled at The University of Houston in the 2013 – 2014 academic year, in addition to many students who, beyond that, identify themselves as having Venezuelan or Ukrainian heritage, or otherwise support students from Venezuela or Ukraine; and

WHEREAS, Friends and family of students at The University of Houston are currently living in Venezuela and Ukraine, exposed to the ongoing fatalities; and

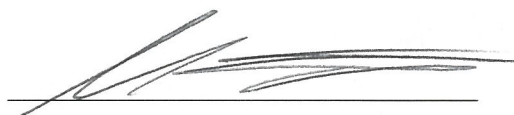
WHEREAS, next school year the Texas legislating bodies will be convening, as well as the houses of representatives of the United States of America.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the 51st Senate of the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

That The University of Houston Student Government supports liberty, freedom of expression, and human rights in Venezuela and Ukraine,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The University of Houston Student Government supports a peaceful end to the violence, restoration of an environment conducive to university settings, and relief for the affected UH students,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The University of Houston Student Government sends a copy of this resolution to the Daily Cougar, the Office of the Dean of Students, Division of Student Affairs, City of Houston mayor, ANNISE PARKER, Governor of the state of Texas, RICK PERRY, the Honorable TED CRUZ, United States Senator for the State of Texas, the Honorable JOHN CORNYN, United States Senator for the State of Texas, Ambassador SAMANTHA POWER, President of the University of Houston, RENU KHATOR, United States Secretary of State, JOHN KERRY, and President of the United States of America, BARACK OBAMA.



Shaun Smith
Speaker of the Senate
University of Houston



Charles Haston
Student Body President
University of Houston