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COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE  
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0919  
July 9, 2019

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The Honorable Michael Pompeo  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

We strongly commend you and President Trump for implementing a robust, pro-democracy policy toward Cuba and the extraordinary strides made in reversing the previous administration's misguided policies of appeasement. Elimination of financial transactions with the Cuban military, ending cruises and people-to-people travel, and allowing lawsuits under Title III of the LIBERTAD Act to move forward have been key toward protecting national security interests and maintaining solidarity with the Cuban people. In light of this remarkable progress in U.S.-Cuba policy, one notable misstep of the previous administration remains in effect: Cuba's unwarranted removal from the U.S.-designated state sponsors of terror list.

We are concerned over the Cuban regime's continued support for U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organizations in the Western Hemisphere, including the Colombian National Liberation Army (ELN) and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), as part of its support for the illegitimate regime of Nicolas Maduro in Venezuela. Therefore, we write to propose the reversal of the Obama Administration's decision to remove the regime in Cuba from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list as part of President Trump's policy to hold it accountable for supporting terrorists that are contributing to Venezuela's deterioration and the destabilization of the region.

The Cuban dictatorship remains off the State Sponsors of Terrorism list despite harboring known narco-terrorists and defying Colombia's request to apprehend ELN leaders allegedly linked to the January 2019 car-bombing of a police academy in Bogota which killed 21 people and injured 68 more. Further, the Cuban regime's 20,000 security forces aid Maduro's security and intelligence services, facilitate the expansion of the ELN's illicit operations into Venezuelan territory, and assist in extrajudicial detentions, torture, and repression against Maduro's opponents. Venezuelan operatives linked to Hezbollah and Iran direct illicit activities throughout the region and operate freely from safe havens in Venezuela—all through a security system guaranteed by the Cuban regime. Further, the regime harbors fugitives from U.S. justice, including an FBI "Top Ten Most Wanted Terrorist" Joanne Chesimard, terrorist bomb maker William Morales, and Charles Hill, hijacker and alleged murderer of a New Mexico police officer. In 2013, the regime was caught smuggling weapons materiel to North Korea, a designated State Sponsor of Terrorism, in violation of the UN Security Council's arms embargo.

We believe returning the Cuban regime to the State Sponsors of Terrorism list is necessary to rectify a major remaining mistake of the previous administration. Doing so is consistent with

President Trump's tough policy and would hold the regime accountable for actions that endanger U.S. security interests and destabilize our hemisphere. We applaud the many actions taken to hold the regime accountable and restrict its ability to use hard currency to oppress the Cuban people and spread its malignancy to Venezuela, Nicaragua, and terrorist groups. We remain committed to working with you to promote human rights, freedom, and democracy in our hemisphere and thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,



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Rep. Francis Rooney (FL-19)

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere

House Committee on Foreign Affairs



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Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (FL-25)

Member of Congress