

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 426

Reps. Rabhi, Aiyash, LaGrand, Brixie, Cynthia Johnson, Cavanagh, Bellino and Pohutsky offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge the President and Congress of the United
2 States to normalize trade relations with the Republic of Cuba by
3 dissolving the current U.S. trade embargo and other barriers that
4 have been levied against the island nation including the
5 designation of Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism.

6 Whereas, For more than six decades, the United States has
7 maintained a strict embargo against the Republic of Cuba through
8 the most comprehensive set of economic sanctions levied against any
9 nation. Through various laws, regulations, and presidential orders,
10 the U.S. government has placed significant restrictions and
11 prohibitions on American-Cuban relationships, particularly in
12 trade, travel, and financial transactions; and

1 Whereas, The Republic of Cuba is home to more than 11 million
2 people. The close proximity of the United States makes Cuba a
3 logical partner for expanded U.S. trade and export of agricultural
4 products. The Republic of Cuba imported \$2 billion in agricultural
5 products to feed the Cuban people in 2021, but only \$157 million
6 was imported from the United States. The U.S. International Trade
7 Commission estimates that American exports to Cuba would rise to
8 \$1.8 billion annually if the embargo is dissolved, and another
9 study predicted an increase in agricultural exports up to \$1.2
10 billion dollars, and improved access to U.S. producers would
11 provide Cubans with cheaper and more plentiful food options; and

12 Whereas, Michigan's agricultural sector would benefit from
13 greater access to Cuban consumers. Agriculture is one of the
14 leading industries in Michigan, and access to the Cuban market
15 means new opportunities for Michigan growers to export dry beans,
16 dairy products, fresh fruit, and other in-demand commodities and
17 food products to Cuban consumers. The United States already exports
18 \$1.33 billion in agricultural products to the Dominican Republic,
19 and open trade with Cuba is expected to produce similar U.S.
20 exports to Cuban markets; and

21 Whereas, It is time to end the more than half-century long
22 trade embargo against the Republic of Cuba. The relaxing of
23 regulations and prohibitions on American exports and financial
24 services will boost the economies in both countries and allow
25 American farmers, ranchers, and food companies to efficiently
26 contribute to the food security needs of the Cuban citizenry.
27 Through presidential and congressional action, the dissolution of
28 trade barriers can expand diplomatic relations between the American
29 and Cuban governments, allow freer travel, partnerships, and trade,

1 and provide an opportunity for all citizens to discover and connect
2 with new cultures; now, therefore, be it

3 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the
4 President and Congress of the United States to normalize trade
5 relations with the Republic of Cuba by dissolving the current U.S.
6 trade embargo and other barriers that have been levied against the
7 island nation including the designation of Cuba as a state sponsor
8 of terrorism; and be it further

9 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
10 President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States
11 House of Representatives, President of the United States Senate and
12 the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.