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26TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0926
January 14, 2020

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Secretary Pompeo
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

I write to express my deep concern over the lack of a clear strategy from this Administration regarding the crisis happening in Venezuela. It has been a year since Juan Guaidó was recognized by 65 countries, including the United States, as the legitimate interim president, and yet Nicolás Maduro is still in power. Maduro's regime plunged Venezuela into a political, economic, and humanitarian crisis rarely seen in the Western Hemisphere¹ with over 3.4 million Venezuelans already having fled their homes to escape the growing emergency.²

I understand that you will be addressing the Chairman and members of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) this Friday to discuss the situation in Venezuela. It is imperative that Members of Congress are included in these conversations. My colleagues and I led the effort to secure \$400 million in aid to the Venezuelan people and neighboring countries that have taken many of them in as refugees. Additionally, we passed the *Venezuela TPS Act of 2019* in the House to ensure Venezuelans in the United States are not forced to return to a country facing a clear emergency. We are unfortunately still waiting on the Senate to act.

At the same time, we have yet to use every diplomatic tool available to exert pressure on those supporting Maduro, like the regimes in Russia, Turkey, and Cuba. Promoting a safer world and standing up for the most vulnerable populations lie at heart of American values. Given the grave state of affairs in Venezuela and lack of advancement, it is crucial that we use our influence to demand that these regimes immediately cease their support of Maduro.

It is unclear what comes next for the country and government of Venezuela. What is clear, however, is that we must stand together to prioritize helping Venezuelans return to a stable and thriving democracy.

I urge you and the President to work with Congress to craft a clear and robust long-term strategy for helping Venezuela's safe return to a true democracy and that you ask the Senate to pass the *Venezuela TPS Act of 2019*. I stand ready to assist in any way I can.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress

¹ *'Protracted crisis' in Venezuela leads to 'alarming escalation of tensions': UN political chief*, UN News (Feb. 26, 2019), <http://news.un.org/en/story/2019/02/1033612>.

² *See Venezuela's Humanitarian Emergency: Large Scale UN Response Needed to Address Health and Food Crises*, Johns Hopkins - Bloomberg School of Pub. Health & Human Rights Watch (April 2019).