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4 **A RESOLUTION**

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6 Calling upon the United States Federal Government to normalize diplomatic and
7 economic relations with the Republic of Cuba
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10 WHEREAS, while the United States of America now maintains diplomatic
11 relations with the Republic of Cuba, the United States government has maintained an
12 economic embargo against Cuba since the Cuban Revolution overthrew the dictatorial
13 regime of Fulgencio Batista, which bans almost all trade with Cuba from American
14 businesses, foreign businesses in the United States, and Americans in general; and
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16 WHEREAS, the United States Government Accountability Office wrote in
17 November 2007 (GAO-08-80), “The stated purpose of this embargo – the most
18 comprehensive set of U.S. economic sanctions on any country – is to weaken the
19 Castro regime by denying it hard currency.”; and according to the United States
20 Department of State, the embargo is presently maintained in statutes from the:

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- 22 • Sections 5 and 16 of the Trading with the Enemy Act of 1917
 - 23 • Foreign Assistance Act of 1961
 - 24 • Cuban Democracy Act of 1992
 - 25 • Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 1996
 - 26 • Trade Sanctions and Export Enhancement Act of 2000
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28 ; and
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30 WHEREAS, the United Nations General Assembly every year from 1992 to 2019
31 (A/Res/74/7), almost unanimously issued resolutions on the “Necessity of ending the
32 economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America
33 against Cuba” by among other things, “Reaffirming, among other principles, the
34 sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal
35 affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation, which are also enshrined in
36 many international legal instruments”; and
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38 WHEREAS, the October 2, 2017 *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*
39 article titled, “Doing More with Less: Lessons from Cuba’s Healthcare System,” found
40 the “United States’ high healthcare costs do not yield corresponding health outcomes
41 for its citizens. Conversely, Cuba, with less than a tenth of U.S. expenditures, has

42 attained comparable outcomes on many indicators, particularly life expectancy and
43 infant mortality”; and

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45 WHEREAS, February 9, 2019 *Berkeley Political Review* article titled, “Cuba’s
46 Healthcare System: A Political, Social, and Economic Revolution,” argued, “The
47 common expectancy when it comes to socialist or government-controlled forms of
48 health care is that the country is unlikely to produce innovations and advancements in
49 the medical field. However, not only as the health care system in Cuba introduced
50 significant innovations to the world, but it has also financed the [Cuban] national
51 economy as well”; and

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53 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County and Wisconsin are home to several prestigious
54 medical institutions which could play a role in fostering collaborative medical research
55 and treatment for the benefit of humanity, via cooperation with Cuban medical
56 professionals with a change in United States foreign policy; and

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58 WHEREAS, the City of Madison has a sister-city friendship with Camagüey,
59 Cuba and in 2019 called for a resumption of a policy of engagement between the United
60 States and Cuba in RES-19-00793 (Madison File No. 58362); and

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62 WHEREAS, United States policy to overthrow the Castro Regime has failed and
63 the current US policy works against American interests, hinders commerce and medical
64 research, and is a violation of Cuban sovereignty; and

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66 WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of
67 April 14, 2021, recommended adoption of File No. 21-330 (vote 4-1); now, therefore,

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69 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby urges
70 the United States Congress and President Biden to normalize diplomatic and economic
71 relations between the United States of America and the Republic of Cuba, terminate all
72 restrictive legislation toward Cuba, and end all special restrictions on the right of
73 Americans to travel to and trade with Cuba; and

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75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, should this policy come to pass, the Milwaukee
76 County Board of Supervisors encourages those who work directly or academically in the
77 healthcare fields in Milwaukee County and Wisconsin to collaborate with their Cuban
78 peers to exchange healthcare successes, particularly in reducing infant mortality and
79 amputations stemming from diabetes; and

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81 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
82 hereby requests the County Clerk provide this resolution to the President of the United
83 States, United States Secretary of State, and the Wisconsin Congressional Delegation.

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