



119th Congress Congressional Hispanic Caucus Policy Position on Venezuela

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus is proud to put forward a unified, forward-looking approach on U.S. policy toward Venezuela that calls on the Trump Administration to support a free and democratic future, reject further U.S. military intervention without congressional authorization, prioritize humanitarian and economic stability, and advance a democratic transition led by the Venezuelan people, not imposed by foreign force or economic exploitation. The CHC opposes dictatorships, denounces drug trafficking and the pardoning of drug traffickers, and rejects using the U.S. military to enact regime change to boost oil industry profits. It is unconscionable that Americans are being told there is no money for health care or nutrition programs, yet Trump and Republicans are suggesting taxpayers pay to support oil companies operating in Venezuela.

CHC's Forward-Looking Framework for a Democratic and Stable Venezuela

- I. Supporting a Free and Democratic Venezuela:** CHC unequivocally supports a free and democratic Venezuela, the end of the Maduro regime, and rejects authoritarian governance. The Venezuelan people deserve institutions that are accountable, transparent, responsive to their will, and a restoration of democracy through timely and legitimate processes that reflect the voice of Venezuelans themselves.
- II. Supporting Congressional Oversight and Requiring Authorization Before Any Further Military Intervention:** CHC rejects unilateral U.S. military intervention and affirms the constitutional role of Congress in matters of war. Any consideration of military action inconsistent with the War Powers Act and the United States Constitution must be subject to formal congressional authorization following public congressional hearings and briefings for Members of Congress on operational scope, legal justification, budgetary implications, and risks to regional stability. Military action without authorization violates U.S. law and undermines democratic accountability for these consequential decisions.
- III. Humanitarian Protection at Home and Abroad and Economic Stability for Venezuela and the Region:** CHC prioritizes policies that protect human rights, preserve family unity, and reduce forced displacement. This includes extending and re-designating Temporary Protected Status for Venezuelans, providing legal certainty for TPS holders with pending asylum cases, and halting deportations into instability. We also call for the release of political prisoners, including journalists and civil society leaders in Venezuela, and an end to the ongoing repression of civil society. We unequivocally support freedom of speech. Finally, comprehensive economic stabilization efforts that reduce forced migration and regional strain are essential to a durable democratic path forward.
- IV. A Democratic Transition Led by the Venezuelan People:** A legitimate democratic transition must reflect the will of the Venezuelan people. A credible transition must meaningfully break from the structures and practices of authoritarian rule. The United States must not attempt to govern Venezuela politically or economically nor use any military force to effectuate any election outcome that is not democratically decided by the people of Venezuela. Venezuela's future must be decided by Venezuelans.
- V. Guardrails on Exploitation and Respect for Sovereign Nations:** CHC rejects the return of an imperialist mindset that treats Latin America as a sphere of influence rather than a region of sovereign nations and is alarmed by recent threats by the president against Latin American countries, including Mexico and Colombia. These threats, further coercive actions, and political interference across the Western Hemisphere risk reviving approaches that undermine democracy, self-determination, and regional stability in the hemisphere. We reject the exploitation of genuine concerns with democracy in Venezuela to seize oil and enrich the president's friends. Economic engagement must serve the Venezuelan people, not be used as political and financial leverage for the president and his friends.