

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. _____

Commemorating 175 years of diplomatic relations between the United States
and the Republic of Guatemala.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the fol-
lowing resolution; which was referred to the Committee on

RESOLUTION

Commemorating 175 years of diplomatic relations between
the United States and the Republic of Guatemala.

Whereas January 31, 2024 marked the 175th anniversary of
the establishment of diplomatic relations between the
United States and the Republic of Guatemala;

Whereas Guatemala and the United States have shared
strong bilateral relations on issues of mutual interest,
with a partnership grounded in respect, shared demo-
cratic and anti-corruption values, the defense of human
rights, and the pursuit of economic prosperity and shared
security interests;

Whereas Ambassador Francisco Villagrán de León, who
passed away on May 18, 2024, after 5 decades of profes-
sional service as a career diplomat, scholar, and political

activist, dedicated a significant portion of his professional career to strengthening Guatemalan democracy and bilateral relations between the United States and Guatemala;

Whereas Guatemalans and Guatemalan Americans residing in the United States have enriched the United States' social, economic, and political development, which has allowed Guatemala's rich identity and heritage to become an integral part of the cultural tapestry of the United States;

Whereas the United States and Guatemala, which have historically enjoyed strong commercial and investment ties, have engaged in free trade since July 1, 2006, through the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement (commonly known as "CAFTA-DR");

Whereas the United States, which is Guatemala's largest trading partner, accounts for nearly 35 percent of Guatemala's foreign trade;

Whereas the United States and Guatemala have been strong partners throughout multiple presidential administrations in both countries to address irregular migration in the Western Hemisphere, including through—

- (1) safe third country agreements;
- (2) the establishment of the Safe Mobility Initiative and the opening of the first Safe Mobility Office in Guatemala;
- (3) being signatories to the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection in June 2022; and
- (4) helping to implement the United States Strategy to Address the Root Causes of Migration in Central America;

Whereas Guatemala and the United States have partnered to combat corruption, uphold the rule of law, and build strong democratic institutions, including by supporting President Bernardo Arévalo's National Commission Against Corruption;

Whereas President Arévalo was democratically elected in 2023, and through concerted and sustained support by a wide swath of Guatemalan citizens, including indigenous persons, pro-democracy activists and the Guatemalan private sector, was inaugurated as president in 2024;

Whereas during his first 100 days in office, President Arévalo has demonstrated a commitment to further deepen Guatemala's bilateral partnership with the United States by—

- (1) reaffirming Guatemala's commitment to maintain shared global policy priorities, including through support to mutual democratic partners of Taiwan, Ukraine, and Israel;

- (2) demonstrating the political will to address the regional migration challenge by hosting the 2024 Third Ministerial on the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection;

- (3) sustaining a serious dialogue with a wide range of indigenous communities on resolving historical inequities and grievances of the large and diverse indigenous communities of Guatemala; and

- (4) following through on his commitment to address corruption across Guatemala's institutions by empowering Guatemala's National Commission Against Corruption;

Whereas journalist Jose Ramon Zamora, former prosecutor Virginia Laparra, and indigenous activist Sofia Tot Ac

have faced unjust harassment for their advocacy against corruption and for indigenous rights in Guatemala;

Whereas Guatemala's principled support for Taiwan is resulting in economic intimidation by the People's Republic of China, which was most recently demonstrated by—

(1) the People's Republic of China's denial of entry of at least 7 shipping containers of macadamia nuts; and

(2) Guatemalan traders being told that Guatemalan macadamia nuts and coffee would be denied entry only days after the attendance of Guatemala's Minister of Foreign Affairs at the inauguration of Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) commemorates the 175th anniversary of the
3 establishment of official diplomatic relations between
4 the United States and the Republic of Guatemala;

5 (2) celebrates the contributions that Guate-
6 malans and Guatemalan-Americans have made in
7 the United States;

8 (3) recognizes the significant contributions
9 made by Ambassador Francisco Villagrán de León
10 to strengthening bilateral relations between the
11 United States and Guatemala and preserving Guate-
12 malan democracy;

13 (4) reaffirms the long history of collaboration
14 across multiple presidential administrations in Gua-
15 temala and the United States to collaborate to ad-
16 dress mutual challenges in our national interests;

1 (5) urges the Government of Guatemala—

2 (A) to continue to work to find achievable
3 solutions to bring inclusive economic growth,
4 address ongoing security challenges, and build
5 more accountable and transparent institutions;

6 (B) to follow through on its commitments
7 to address the legitimate grievances of indige-
8 nous communities so these communities feel in-
9 cluded and empowered, and to see tangible
10 progress for the indigenous population in Gua-
11 temala; and

12 (C) to ensure fair judicial proceedings for
13 all wrongfully targeted journalists and activists,
14 including Jose Ramon Zamora, Virginia
15 Laparra, and Sofia Tot Ac; and

16 (6) calls on the United States Government—

17 (A) to enhance its efforts to counter eco-
18 nomic coercion of Guatemala from the People's
19 Republic of China due to Guatemala's contin-
20 ued recognition of Taiwan, including through
21 enhanced economic partnerships, private sector
22 engagement, and foreign assistance;

23 (B) to strengthen foreign assistance aimed
24 at helping the Government of Guatemala ensure

6

1 democracy can deliver tangible improvements
2 for all Guatemalans;

3 (C) to use all available tools at its disposal
4 to support Guatemala's efforts to combat wide-
5 spread corruption; and

6 (D) to ensure that migration management
7 efforts are focused on safe, legal, and humane
8 strategies.