



**Polaris K-12 School
Resolution #24
Call for the End of the U.S. Blockade of Cuba
Submitted by Rohn Anderson
November 21, 2023**

Be it resolved by Operational Group, that the Polaris Student Body calls for the end of the United States embargo against the Republic of Cuba, and wishes to bring this resolution to the Alaska Association of Student Governments.

1. **Whereas**, the United States originally imposed an economic, commercial, and financial embargo on the Republic of Cuba in 1962 that remains in place to this day¹;
2. **Whereas**, this embargo has caused detrimental harm to the Cuban people, greatly disrupting their access to food, clean water, and medical care²;
3. **Whereas**, the Cuban embargo is unnecessarily cruel to the Cuban people and achieves no overall good;
4. **Whereas**, the embargo was originally put in place “to decrease monetary and real wages, to bring about hunger, desperation and overthrow of government”³;
5. **Whereas**, it is fair to say therefore that the original purpose of the Cuban Embargo was to create starvation, death, and violent conflict in Cuba;
6. **Whereas**, the embargo has been in place for over 60 years, yet has failed to cause any meaningful or viable change to the Cuban government whatsoever;
7. **Whereas**, a 2016 poll by Pew Research Center states that 73% of adult Americans support ending the Cuban embargo⁴;
8. **Whereas**, for the past thirty-one years, the United Nations General Assembly has overwhelmingly voted to condemn the Cuban Embargo, with only the United States and Israel voting against the resolutions^{5,6};
9. **Whereas**, the United States’ largest foreign trading partner is the People’s Republic of China, a nation generally accepted as one of, if not the most, totalitarian nations in the world^{7,8};

10. **Whereas**, it is hypocritical of the United States to hurt and humiliate Cuba and its people while carrying out a considerable amount of its trading with a nation that publicly practices the claimed reasons for the embargo;
11. **Whereas**, the United States provides hundreds of millions of dollars in military and foreign aid to nations with records of human rights abuses, such as Egypt, who otherwise undergo no Commercial or Economic embargo⁹;
12. **Whereas**, in 2009, it was estimated that the embargo against Cuba cost the US economy between \$1.2 billion and \$4.84 billion annually in lost sales and exports¹⁰, or between over \$1.7 billion (\$1,720,939,511.60) and \$6.4 billion (\$6,424,840,843.30) in today's money¹¹;
13. **Whereas**, resolutions similar to this, calling for an end to the embargo, have been passed by multiple well-known and respected city councils, such as the Boston City Council¹², The New York City Council¹³, and the D.C. Council¹⁴; and
14. **Whereas**, if a resolution such as this were to be passed by a group with considerable weight, such as the Alaska Association of Student Governments, it could help cause further condemnation of the embargo and potentially lead to the end of the embargo altogether.

Therefore, be it resolved by Operational Group, the Polaris Student Body calls for the end of the United States embargo against The Republic of Cuba, and wishes to bring this resolution to the Alaska Association of Student Governments.

Action Statement: If passed by Operational Group, this resolution would represent the opinion of the Polaris Student Body that the economic, commercial, and financial embargo imposed against Cuba must end immediately. An edited copy of this resolution would be submitted to the Alaska Association of Student Governments to have it heard in the next AASG general assembly. A copy of this resolution would be sent to the Anchorage Assembly, Alaska State Legislature, and Alaska's representative and Senators in Congress. Along with these copies will be sent an accompanying letter explaining the resolution, and calling on recipients to condemn the embargo and take steps necessary to end it.

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