

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

May 25, 2018

The Honorable Mike Pompeo  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

I am deeply concerned by the deteriorating situation in Venezuela and urge your continued support for the Venezuelan people.

Under the leadership of Nicolás Maduro, Venezuela's political freedoms and civil liberties (particularly freedom of speech) and economic conditions have dramatically deteriorated. His government has used repressive and violent measures to suppress demonstrations, arrested opposition leaders and their supporters, and deprived those in detention of due process.

As you know, this weekend the Maduro regime held a fraudulent election. I agree with the Department's statement that this was an attack on constitutional order and Venezuela's tradition of democracy. Until the Maduro regime restores a democratic path in Venezuela through free, fair, and transparent elections, the government there must continue to experience isolation from the international community.

The Maduro regime is presiding over an historic economic collapse in Venezuela with prices soaring, widespread hunger, rampant crime, and a failing health system. Given these conditions along with increasing repression by the Maduro regime, many Venezuelans have chosen to leave, overwhelming nearby countries.

As I stated to your predecessor, Maduro's political opponents have been subjected to intense persecution. They have been vilified on state media by Maduro regime officials, routinely accused of false crimes, and arbitrarily imprisoned. Media reports indicate that El Helicoide may have more than 300 political prisoners, including U.S. citizens and native opposition leaders. Again, I urge the Department of State to take immediate action to assist political prisoners.

While the administration has coupled a policy of target and broader sanctions, I encourage the administration to use all tools in our diplomatic tool kit, including humanitarian assistance and support for democracy. We must continue to do all we can to support the people of Venezuela and demonstrate international leadership on this political

and humanitarian crisis. I encourage the Department to urge other like-minded countries to provide similar leadership and elevate our collective response to this crisis.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brendan J. Boyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B'.

Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress