

AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Calendar No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

**IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—114th Cong., 2d Sess.**

**S. Res. 537**

Expressing profound concern about the ongoing political, economic, social and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, urging the release of political prisoners, and calling for respect of constitutional and democratic processes.

Referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_ and  
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended  
to be proposed by Mr. CARDIN

Viz:

- 1       Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the fol-
- 2       lowing: “That the Senate—
- 3               (1) expresses its profound concern about wide-
- 4       spread shortages of essential medicines and basic
- 5       food products faced by the people of Venezuela, and
- 6       urges President Maduro to permit the delivery of
- 7       humanitarian assistance;
- 8               (2) calls on the Government of Venezuela to im-
- 9       mediately release all political prisoners and to re-
- 10      spect internationally recognized human rights;

1           (3) supports meaningful efforts towards a dia-  
2           logue that leads to respect for Venezuela's constitu-  
3           tional mechanisms and resolves the country's polit-  
4           ical, economic, social, and humanitarian crisis;

5           (4) affirms its support for OAS Secretary Gen-  
6           eral Almagro's invocation of Article 20 of the Inter-  
7           American Democratic Charter and urges the OAS  
8           Permanent Council, which represents all of the orga-  
9           nization's member states, to undertake a collective  
10          assessment of the constitutional and democratic  
11          order in Venezuela;

12          (5) calls on the Government of Venezuela to en-  
13          sure the neutrality and professionalism of all secu-  
14          rity forces and to respect the Venezuelan people's  
15          rights to freedom of expression and assembly;

16          (6) calls on the Government of Venezuela to  
17          halt its efforts to undermine the principle of separa-  
18          tion of powers, its circumvention of the democrat-  
19          ically elected legislature, and its subjugation of judi-  
20          cial independence;

21          (7) stresses the urgency of strengthening the  
22          rule of law and increasing efforts to combat impu-  
23          nity and public corruption in Venezuela, which has  
24          bankrupted a resource-rich country, fuels rising so-

1 cial tensions, and contributes to elevated levels of  
2 crime and violence; and

3 (8) urges the President of the United States to  
4 provide full support for OAS efforts in favor of con-  
5 stitutional and democratic solutions to the political  
6 impasse, and to instruct appropriate Federal agen-  
7 cies to hold officials of the Government of Venezuela  
8 accountable for violations of United States law and  
9 abuses of internationally recognized human rights.