



This Week in the Office of Senator Marco Rubio

On Thursday, I chaired a Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee hearing on “U.S.-Venezuela Relations and the Path to a Democratic Transition.” In this critical time in Venezuela’s crisis, we must continue to work within our power to support Interim President Juan Guaidó and the Venezuelan people in the restoration of democracy. Read more [here](#).

El jueves, presidí una audiencia del Subcomité de Relaciones Exteriores para el Hemisferio Occidental, Delincuencia Transnacional, Seguridad Civil, Democracia, Derechos Humanos y Asuntos Globales de la Mujer, sobre la relación entre los EE.UU. y Venezuela y un camino hacia una transición democrática. En este momento crítico de la crisis en Venezuela, es importante que continuemos apoyando al Presidente Interino Juan Guaidó y al pueblo venezolano en la restauración de democracia. Lea más [aquí](#).



On Wednesday, I chaired a hearing titled “Small Business and the American Worker,” to explore ways we can empower our local communities and economies. Read more [here](#).



On Thursday, I joined Fox & Friends to discuss the crisis in Venezuela and the need to secure our southern border. Watch the interview [here](#).



On Tuesday, I named Hog Technologies of Stuart, Florida, the U.S. Senate Small Business of the Week. Their work in Florida is a great example of entrepreneurial success and dedication to our local communities. Read more [here](#).



Senate Small Biz
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Chairman @MarcoRubio names Hog Technologies of #Stuart, #Florida, as Senate Small Business of the Week #SmallBiz



On Wednesday, I was joined by Senator Rick Scott (R-FL) and U.S. Representative Vern Buchanan (R-FL) in introducing the Sunshine Protection Act. This legislation would make Daylight Saving Time (DST) permanent across the country. Studies have shown that making DST permanent could benefit the economy and the country. Read more [here](#).

“Studies have shown many benefits of a year-round Daylight Saving Time, which is why Florida’s legislature overwhelmingly voted to make it permanent last year,” **Rubio said**. “Reflecting the will of the State of Florida, I’m proud to reintroduce this bill to also make Daylight Saving Time permanent nationally.”

On Monday, I was joined by Senator Rick Scott (R-FL) and Congressman Mario Díaz-Balart (R-FL) to commend President Trump’s decision to implement the Helms-Burton Libertad Act to hold the Cuban regime accountable for crimes and support for the narco-terrorist dictatorship of Maduro in Venezuela. Read more [here](#).

"President Trump is sending a strong message that the United States will not sit idly by while the Cuban regime continues to support the Maduro crime family at the expense of the Venezuelan people," **Rubio said.** "For 60 years, the Cuban regime has forced millions into exile, destabilized neighboring countries, given safe harbor to fugitives from justice and to international terrorists, and made millions trafficking in stolen property. By beginning the process of implementing Title III of the Helms-Burton Libertad Act, the United States is holding the Cuban regime accountable for its crimes, including its support for the murderous Maduro crime family. Justice is coming — and it is just getting started."

On Thursday, Senator Rick Scott (R-FL) and I sent a letter to the Department of Interior Acting Secretary David Bernhardt urging that the Department's next five-year Proposed Plan for offshore oil and gas exclude all areas along Florida's coast. Read more [here](#).

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 7, 2019

The Honorable David Bernhardt
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Acting Secretary Bernhardt,

Last year, when the Department of the Interior announced its National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program that would greatly expand offshore drilling opportunities, we expressed our opposition to the inclusion of the moratorium areas in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico (EGOM) Planning Area and called for the immediate removal of all of Florida's offshore waters from consideration. Citing the broad support within the state for protecting Florida's coastline from the potential risks from offshore drilling, your predecessor was publicly supportive of our request. In addition, the people of Florida recently demonstrated this broad support when they overwhelmingly approved an amendment to the state's constitution banning drilling for oil and natural gas in state waters.

Florida's coastline and offshore waters have incredible environmental and economic value not only for Florida, but also for the nation. In fact, several offshore areas surrounding Florida, including all waters east of the Military Mission Line in the EGOM, are essential for developing and sustaining United States military readiness and advanced weapons testing. We remain concerned about the impacts of oil and gas activities on Florida's marine and coastal environment, as well as the military activities critical to our national security. Oil spills, such as the Deepwater Horizon disaster, have demonstrated the catastrophic impacts increased oil and gas drilling around Florida could wreak on our state's environmental resources, fisheries, tourism, and economy.

Once again, we urge the Department to stand by your commitment to exclude the offshore waters around Florida from further consideration in its National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Plan. We welcome the opportunity to continue working with you to preserve Florida's natural treasures and the economic benefits they help to support for generations to come.



Rick Scott
U.S. Senator

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator

On Thursday, Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL), Bob Menendez (D-NJ) and I were joined by 24 of our colleagues in a letter to President Donald Trump requesting the

Administration to designate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for eligible Venezuelan nationals currently present in the U.S. Read more [here](#).



March 7, 2019

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

In light of the ongoing violence, deteriorating security situation, and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela caused by the illegitimate regime of Nicolás Maduro, we respectfully request that your Administration promptly designate Venezuela for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to ensure that Venezuelan nationals currently present in the United States are not forced to return to Venezuela at this time. Returning non-violent individuals back to Venezuela during this critical time of transition is not in the best long-term interests of the United States or our partners in the region.

As you know, TPS can be granted to nationals of another country who are currently residing in the United States if returning to their country would pose a serious threat to their personal safety because of ongoing armed conflict, the temporary effects of an environmental disaster, or other extraordinary and temporary conditions. TPS allows eligible nationals of designated countries to remain in the United States legally until the designation expires.

Venezuela clearly meets the standard for TPS as it is obviously too dangerous for Venezuelan nationals to return to their country. It is facing simultaneous humanitarian, economic, and political crises of monumental proportions due to Maduro's criminal regime. The result is a failed state experiencing terrible violence and malnutrition as well as levels of disease seen only in war zones. Those who speak in opposition to the discredited and illegitimate Maduro cabal face arrest, torture, or even death. The ensuing human suffering has contributed to the largest refugee and migrant crisis in the Western Hemisphere.

An individual is ineligible for TPS if he or she has a criminal background or poses a threat to national security. The decision to deny, withdraw or terminate TPS is in the sole discretion of the U.S. Government. Moreover, TPS does not make a beneficiary eligible for legal permanent resident status or U.S. citizenship. When the TPS designation of a country is terminated, beneficiaries revert to the same immigration status they maintained before the designation.

On Monday, Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ) and I led a letter with our colleagues urging President Trump to send a Cabinet-level official to Taipei for the 40th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act in April 2019. Read the letter [here](#).

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 4, 2019

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

In April 2019, the United States will commemorate the 40th anniversary of the *Taiwan Relations Act* (Public Law 96-8). This landmark legislation serves as the cornerstone of U.S. policy towards Taiwan and has helped to maintain peace, security, and stability in the Indo-Pacific against an increasingly aggressive Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Communist Party of China (CCP). To mark this momentous occasion, the Director of the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) has indicated his intention to hold a major event in April to celebrate the anniversary. This event provides an ideal opportunity, consistent with the requirements set forth in the *Taiwan Travel Act* (Public Law 115-135) that you signed into law on March 16, 2018, to send a Cabinet-level official to Taipei to underscore our nation's enduring commitment to Taiwan's democracy and its people. The provisions of the *Taiwan Travel Act* were further reaffirmed in the *Asia Reassurance Initiative Act* (Public Law 115-409), which was signed into law on December 31, 2018.

Taiwan is a key economic and security partner, as well as a critical ally of the United States. In your November 2017 speech to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO summit, you spoke of your vision for "a peaceful, prosperous, and free Indo-Pacific." As a vibrant democracy and free-market economy that respects the rule of law, Taiwan is an important part of achieving this vision and a shining example of everything we want for the region.

We welcomed your signing of the *Taiwan Travel Act* and the *Asia Reassurance Initiative Act* into law last year. This was an important development in our relationship with Taiwan that cemented the critical need for high-level visits between Washington, D.C., and Taipei. In specific, the law encourages high-level officials, including Cabinet-level national security officials, general officers, and other executive branch officials, to travel to Taiwan and meet with their counterparts. We believe that travel of this nature is important to ensure we are acting in accordance with our commitments under the *Taiwan Relations Act*, especially given Chinese efforts to change the cross-Strait status quo.

We therefore respectfully request you to fully implement the *Taiwan Travel Act* and the *Asia Reassurance Initiative Act*, and send a Cabinet-level official to represent the United States at the AIT event in Taipei, Taiwan. We believe the presence of a senior delegation would send a

Ahead of a vote to condemn anti-Semitic comments made by a member of her conference, I urged Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) to pass my bill, Strengthening America's Security in the Middle East Act of 2019 (S.1), that would show that House Democrats are serious about bolstering America's security and supporting our important ally, Israel. Read more [here](#).

"Yet again, the House will vote to disavow anti-Semitism in an attempt to reassure Americans and our ally Israel that the rising and disturbing public display of anti-Semitism from a few House Democrats is not indicative of the party as a whole," **Rubio said**. "Rebuking the anti-Semitic 'dual loyalty' canard is important, but words alone are not enough anymore. If House Democrats are serious about reaffirming their support for Israel, they should pass the bipartisan *Strengthening America's Security in the Middle East Act*."

On Thursday, I condemned the lawsuit from Huawei against the U.S. government. Read more [here](#).

“Huawei is a Chinese state-directed telecom company with a singular goal: undermine foreign competition by stealing trade secrets and intellectual property, and through artificially low prices backed by the Chinese government. The Communist Chinese government poses the greatest, long-term threat to America’s national and economic security. The U.S. must be vigilant in preventing Chinese state-directed telecoms companies, like Huawei, from undermining and endangering critical U.S. systems and infrastructure. That is why Congress recently acted well within our constitutional authority to block Huawei from our telecommunications equipment market due to concerns with the company’s links to China’s intelligence services.”

In Case You Missed It...

“In December, U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio wrote a letter chastising FEMA for not finding enough sites for trailers or mobile homes. Rubio said families ‘have not seen an appropriate response to their housing needs and FEMA must immediately act to address this concern.’” (It’s pure hell’: Hurricane Michael leaves housing crisis, [Associated Press](#), 3/4/2019)

“Rubio Names Hog Technologies of Stuart U.S. Senate's Small Business of the Week” ([Sunshine State News](#), 3/5/2019)

“New Bill By Rubio, Warren Would Stop States From Suspending Job Licenses Over Unpaid Student Loans” ([Forbes](#), 3/4/2019)

“Senators Marco Rubio, Rick Scott and Representative Vern Buchanan have introduced legislation that would make Daylight Saving Time permanent, not only in Florida, but also across the country.” (Florida Lawmakers Introduce Bill To Make Daylight Saving Time Year Round Across The Country, [CBS Miami](#), 3/7/2019)

“Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee who has been on the forefront of going after Huawei, said in a press release that he supports the efforts the administration has made to curb the presence of Huawei in the U.S. and condemned the complaint filed by the Chinese company.” (Chinese company Huawei sues the US, [Washington Examiner](#), 3/7/2019)

“A committee headed by Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) recently released a report stating that Made in China 2025, the high-tech industrial plan Beijing announced a few years ago, is not just breaking the rules, but trying to reset them according to a Chinese agenda. Seven Democratic senators petitioned President Trump last month, urging him to hang tough with China on intellectual property and other major tech issues.”

(We can't let China become the global leader in artificial intelligence, [Los Angeles Times](#), 3/4/2019)

“Permanent daylight-saving time gets push from Sen. Marco Rubio” ([The Daytona Beach News-Journal](#), 3/5/2019)

“Los senadores Marco Rubio, Rick Scott y el representante Vern Buchanan presentaron una legislación que haría el Horario de Verano (DST) permanente, pero no solo en la Florida, sino en todo el país.” (Legisladores de la Florida presentan proyecto de ley para hacer el Horario de Verano permanente todo el año, [El Nuevo Herald](#), 3/7/2019)

“El senador Marco Rubio, uno de los legisladores que ha presionado para implementar el Título III, dijo que Trump envía un mensaje fuerte de que Estados Unidos ‘no se quedará con los brazos cruzados’ mientras el régimen cubano sigue apoyando al gobernante venezolano Nicolás Maduro’.” ([El Nuevo Herald](#), 3/4/2019)

“Marco Rubio Wants VA to Expand Funeral Benefits for Veterans” ([Sunshine State News](#), 3/5/2019)

“‘The Senate is going to have to decide whether to impose its own sanctions,’ Republican Senator Marco Rubio of Florida after the briefing Monday for members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the administration’s response to a request that President Donald Trump order a full investigation of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi’s death.” (Senators Threaten Saudi Sanctions After Trump Misses Deadline, [Bloomberg](#), 3/4/2019)

“As the hearing continued, Republican Senator Marco Rubio said bin Salman had gone ‘full gangster,’ an assertion repeated by another Republican, Senator Ron Johnson. ‘He is reckless, he’s ruthless, he has a penchant for escalation, for taking high risks, confrontational in his foreign policy approach and I think increasingly willing to test the limits of what he can get away with the United States,’ Rubio said.” (U.S. senators say Saudi crown prince has gone 'full gangster', [Reuters](#), 3/6/2019)

“Marco Rubio, Rick Scott, Vern Buchanan seek year-round daylight saving again” ([Florida Politics](#), 3/6/2019)

“Saudi prince has gone 'full gangster,' says Rubio, as lawmakers decry kingdom's abuses” ([CNN](#), 3//6/2019)

“Florida Sens. Marco Rubio and Rick Scott demanded Weddle’s release and the U.S. State Department accused Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro of preferring to ‘stifle

the truth rather than face it. Being a journalist is not a crime.” (U.S. journalist briefly detained, then released in Venezuela amid continued unrest, [Miami Herald](#), 3/6/2019)

“Por su parte, el senador estadounidense Marco Rubio, quien ha seguido de cerca el proceso de Guaidó en Venezuela, alertó en su cuenta de Twitter bloqueos a la autopista que conecta al aeropuerto de Maiquetía con Caracas.” (Juan Guaidó ya se encuentra en Venezuela bajo temores de arresto, [El Espectador](#), 3/4/2019)

“Sen. Marco Rubio laid out the scale of Venezuela’s migration crisis, Sen. Bob Menendez hammered the Cubans and Russians who are propping up Nicolás Maduro’s violent security forces, and USAID director Mark Green acknowledged that U.S.-backed humanitarian aid currently can’t get inside Venezuela.” (Special envoy Elliott Abrams says TPS for Venezuelans is ‘under review’, [Miami Herald](#), 3/7/2019)

“Rubio dejó en claro que Estados Unidos mantendrá su campaña contra Maduro, hablando directamente a los venezolanos a los que dijo que ‘el mundo libre no los olvidará. Maduro cree que puede esperar a que pase, pero no lo vamos a olvidar’. Y agregó que Estados Unidos se mantendrá en la lucha ‘todo el tiempo que sea necesario’.” (El hambre en Venezuela puede frenar la lucha contra Maduro, advierten en Senado de EE.UU., [CNN Español](#), 3/8/2019)

“Sen. Marco Rubio (R., Fla.) said Saudi Arabia is the most difficult U.S. partner and is testing the limits of the relationship by committing ‘grotesque’ human rights violations at home and abroad. He described Prince Mohammed as ‘ruthless,’ ‘reckless’ and increasingly untenable.” (Senators Decry Saudi Human Rights Abuses, [The Wall Street Journal](#), 3/6/2019)

Legislation Introduced...

- Senator Rick Scott (R-FL), Congressman Vern Buchanan (R-FL) and I introduced the [Sunshine Protection Act](#) that would make Daylight Saving Time (DST) permanent across the country.
- Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Congressmen Steve Cohen (D-TN) and Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA) reintroduced bipartisan, bicameral [legislation](#), the Stop Overrides Act, to help prevent deadly truck override crashes.
- Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR), Mark Warner (D-VA) and I reintroduced the [Student Right to Know Before You Go Act](#). This legislation would provide information to help students, families, policymakers, and taxpayers better understand the costs and outcomes associated with higher education, while protecting individual privacy.
- I joined Senators Chris Murphy (D-CT), Ron Johnson (R-WI), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Ben Cardin (D-MD), and Cory Gardner (R-CO) to reintroduce bipartisan [legislation](#) to provide new tools for the U.S. and its allies to combat malign Russian influence.

- Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ) and I introduced a [bill](#) to improve U.S. government efforts to bring back Americans held hostage and punish their captors.
- I joined Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and John Cornyn (R-TX) in introducing bipartisan [legislation](#) to protect the economic security and well-being of our veterans and their families who may be experiencing financial hardship.

Coming up...

- My staff will host Mobile Office Hours next week to assist constituents with federal casework issues in their communities. More information and locations near you [here](#).

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