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U.S. Representative Martin T. Meehan
Statement on Venezuela

Democracy in Venezuela is at a crossroads. After having been one of the strongholds of democracy in Latin America and a close ally to the United States for half a century, Venezuela is experiencing a political and social crisis that threatens its democratic process. We support a peaceful resolution as contained in the agreements reached upon by both the government and the Democratic Coordinating Committee with the Organization of American States and the Carter Center.

The recall referendum is a constitutional right afforded to Venezuelan citizens to express their will and reach an electoral solution. The United States and the international community must monitor the events as they unfold and urge President Chávez to allow the country to follow a democratic path.

A strong democracy in Venezuela and the rest of Latin America is the only guarantee for progress, peace and protection of human rights in the region. All efforts should be exhausted to assure the survival of democracy in Venezuela.

MARTY MEEHAN
Member of Congress