

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2542
OFFERED BY MR. RIVERA OF FLORIDA

In section 1, add at the end the following:

1 (12) In October 2009, Nicaragua's Ortega-sup-
2 ported, Sandinista-controlled Supreme Court over-
3 turned the Nicaraguan Constitution's ban on con-
4 secutive presidential terms. According to Article 191
5 of the Constitution, this action is outside the Su-
6 preme Court's realm of authority. In addition, Arti-
7 cle 147 of the Nicaraguan Constitution explicitly
8 prohibits presidents from serving consecutive terms
9 and running for reelection.

10 (13) Nicaragua's Supreme Electoral Council,
11 which has jurisdiction over all elections in the coun-
12 try, did not operate in a transparent and impartial
13 manner during the 2011 presidential elections. Ac-
14 cording to the Department of State, the Council
15 failed to accredit certain credible domestic organiza-
16 tions as observers, such as the non-partisan
17 Hagamos Democracia. On election day, some of
18 those observers who were granted accreditation were
19 still denied access to voting centers. For example,

1 OAS observers were prevented from entering at least
2 20 percent of the polling stations.

3 (14) The 2011 Nicaraguan presidential elec-
4 tions were neither free nor fair. According to elec-
5 tion observers such as the European Union and
6 OAS, voters faced difficulties in obtaining the proper
7 identification needed to cast their vote and certain
8 precincts opened late. In addition, the Supreme
9 Electoral Council rejected or stalled the credentials
10 of poll monitors hailing from the opposition party,
11 allowing Sandinista supporters to monitor stations
12 and count the ballots.

In section 2, insert "and Nicaragua's" after "Ven-
ezuela's" each place it appears.