

HCR 9 Testimony

This issue has dragged on for many years now; let me first give you a bit of context about the case and the efforts to bring Ms. Hoerig to justice thus far:

On March 12, 2007, Major Karl Hoerig, a pilot for the United States Air Force Reserve and Southwest Airlines, was found brutally murdered in his home in Newton Falls, Trumbull County, Ohio. Overwhelming evidence was gathered by local and state law enforcement officials to establish that the victim's wife, Claudia C. Hoerig, an American citizen, premeditatedly killed Karl and then escaped to Brazil, where she has state-authorized sanctuary from prosecution in the United States.

Over ten years have now passed since a grand jury charged Ms. Hoerig with the aggravated murder of her husband, and she continues to elude justice in spite of the efforts made by various state and federal officials seeking her return, including the Office of International Affairs, the FBI, Peter Elliott of the U.S. Marshal's Office Northern District of Ohio, and Congressman Tim Ryan of Ohio's 17th Congressional District.

As it stands today, Ms. Hoerig has had her Brazilian citizenship revoked, and the top court in Brazil recently ruled that she should be extradited. However, she will likely have the opportunity to appeal in the Brazilian courts. And, much like our State Department has final say of extraditions of U.S. nationals, the Brazilian executive authorities have a say in whether extradition proceeds.

I, and my colleague in the Senate, Senator Sean O'Brien, introduced this concurrent resolution in the hope that it will encourage our federal authorities—namely: President Trump, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, and the United States Congress—to compel the government of Brazil, through diplomatic means, to comply with our request that Ms. Hoerig be extradited to the U.S. to stand trial. To incentivize compliance, this resolution includes language that requests that our foreign aid payments to Brazil be terminated if the Brazilian government ultimately refuses to extradite Ms. Hoerig.

As I said before, this issue has been going on for over a decade. That is time in which Karl Hoerig's loved ones have been left in limbo, without the justice and closure they deserve. By

passing this resolution, we send a message to criminals who've fled overseas that they cannot escape American justice or expect us to, even after a decade, simply forget the harm they've done to our state and our nation.