

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 88

Expressing the sense of the Senate on the importance of membership of the United States on the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 14, 2001

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BIDEN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. REED, Mr. KOHL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mrs. CLINTON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate on the importance of membership of the United States on the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

Whereas the United States played a critical role in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which outlines the universal rights promoted and protected by the United Nations Human Rights Commission;

Whereas the United Nations Human Rights Commission is the most important and visible international entity dealing with the promotion and protection of universal human rights and is the main policy-making entity dealing with human rights issues within the United Nations;

Whereas the 53 member governments of the United Nations Human Rights Commission prepare studies, make recommendations, draft international human rights conventions and declarations, investigate allegations of human rights violations, and handle communications relating to human rights;

Whereas the United States has held a seat on the United Nations Human Rights Commission since its creation in 1947;

Whereas the United States has worked in the United Nations Human Rights Commission for 54 years to improve respect for human rights throughout the world;

Whereas the United Nations Human Rights Commission adopted significant resolutions condemning ongoing human rights abuses in Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Chechnya, Congo, Afghanistan, Equatorial Guinea, Burundi, Rwanda, Burma, and Sierra Leone in April, 2001, with the support of the United States;

Whereas, on May 3, 2001, the United States was not re-elected to membership in the United Nations Human Rights Commission;

Whereas some of the countries elected to the United Nations Human Rights Commission have been the subject of resolutions by the Commission citing them for human rights abuses; and

Whereas it is important for the United States to be a member of the United Nations Human Rights Commission in order to promote human rights worldwide most effectively: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

1 (1) the United States has made important con-
2 tributions to the United Nations Human Rights
3 Commission for the past 54 years;

4 (2) the recent loss of membership of the United
5 States on the United Nations Human Rights Com-
6 mission is a setback for human rights throughout
7 the world; and

8 (3) the Administration should work with the
9 European allies of the United States and other na-
10 tions to restore the membership of the United States
11 on the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

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