

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 375

Expressing the sense of the Congress in support of the people of Iran and their legitimate quest for freedom, economic opportunity, and friendship with the people of the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 11, 2002

Mr. GUTKNECHT (for himself, Mr. EHRLICH, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. NEY, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. GILMAN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress in support of the people of Iran and their legitimate quest for freedom, economic opportunity, and friendship with the people of the United States, and for other purposes.

Whereas the first day of spring, celebrated by millions worldwide as Nowruz, the Persian (Iranian) New Year, symbolizes renewal, birth, and new beginnings;

Whereas the American people respect the Iranian people and value the contribution that Iran's culture has made to world civilization over three millennia;

Whereas the United States recognizes the legitimate aspiration of the Iranian people for democracy, civil, political, and religious rights, and the rule of law;

Whereas there exists a broad-based movement and desire for political change in Iran that represents all sectors of Iranian society, including youth, women, students, military personnel, and religious figures, and that is pro-democratic, seeking freedom and economic opportunity;

Whereas the Iranian people have increasingly expressed frustration at the slow pace of reform, while still pursuing nonviolent change in their society;

Whereas in four consecutive elections, the Iranian people have opted for nonviolent reform;

Whereas following the tragedies of September 11, 2001, thousands of Iranians filled the streets spontaneously and in solidarity with the United States and the victims of the terrorist attacks; and

Whereas the people of Iran deserve the support of the American people: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3 (1) expresses its heartfelt gratitude and appre-
4 ciation to the courageous people of Iran for their
5 brave expressions of support following the Sep-
6 tember 11, 2001, attacks on the United States;

7 (2) recognizes and supports the people of Iran
8 in their daily struggle for democracy, reform, human
9 rights, economic prosperity, and the rule of law;

10 (3) makes a clear distinction between the peace-
11 loving people of Iran, endowed with a rich culture
12 and history, and the unelected officials of Iran; and

1 (4) urges the President of the United States—

2 (A) to engage with and support the people
3 of Iran and their legitimate aspiration for free-
4 dom and democracy;

5 (B) to continue to pursue areas of common
6 interest with the people of Iran while taking an
7 uncompromising stance on terrorism, weapons
8 of mass destruction, and the human rights of
9 Iranian citizens; and

10 (C) to use all available diplomatic means to
11 support the Iranian people's demand for an im-
12 mediate release of all political prisoners and for
13 removal of the ban on freedom of the press.

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