

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 432

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the education curriculum in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 27, 2002

Mr. DAVIS of Florida (for himself, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. ROSELEHTINEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. KING, Mr. LANTOS, and Mr. HYDE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the education curriculum in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Whereas the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, were carried out by 19 hijackers, including 15 Saudi Arabian nationals;

Whereas the Government of Saudi Arabia controls and regulates all forms of education in public and private schools at all levels;

Whereas Islamic religious education is compulsory in public and private schools at all levels;

Whereas the religious curriculum is written, monitored, and taught by followers of the Wahhabi interpretation of

Islam, the only religion the Government of Saudi Arabia allows to be taught;

Whereas rote memorization of religious texts continues to be a central feature of much of the educational system of Saudi Arabia, leaving thousands of students unprepared to function in the global economy of the 21st century;

Whereas the Government of Saudi Arabia has tolerated elements within its education system that promote and encourage extremism;

Whereas some textbooks in Saudi Arabian schools foster a combination of intolerance, ignorance, and anti-Semitic, anti-American, and anti-Western views;

Whereas these intolerant views instilled in students make them prime recruiting targets of extremist groups;

Whereas extremism is a danger to the stability of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Middle East region, and global security;

Whereas the events of September 11, 2001, have created an urgent need to promote moderate voices in the Islamic world as an effective way to combat extremism; and

Whereas the Government of Saudi Arabia is currently conducting a review of its education curriculum: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) supports the review by the Government of
4 Saudi Arabia of its education curriculum;

1 (2) calls on the Government of Saudi Arabia to
2 ensure that such review is thorough, objective, and
3 public; and

4 (3) urges the Government of Saudi Arabia to
5 reform its education curriculum in a manner that
6 promotes tolerance, develops civil society, and en-
7 courages functionality in the global economy.

○