

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 455

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives in support of establishing a program to foster private investment by the people of the United States in Iraqi schools and hospitals through adopt-a-school and adopt-a-hospital initiatives.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 19, 2003

Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. KOLBE, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives in support of establishing a program to foster private investment by the people of the United States in Iraqi schools and hospitals through adopt-a-school and adopt-a-hospital initiatives.

Whereas throughout history, the people of the United States have reached out to those in need and shown compassion for the people of nations in need through the private donation of time, money, and supplies;

Whereas facilitating involvement by communities in the United States in the reconstruction of Iraq's education and health systems will foster greater cultural under-

standing between the people of the United States and the people of Iraq;

Whereas establishing school-to-school and hospital-to-hospital partnerships between Iraq and the United States will increase awareness in the United States of the improving situation in Iraq;

Whereas fostering private investment in the reconstruction of Iraq will directly promote the principles of peace, freedom, and democracy in Iraq;

Whereas there is widespread lack of access to formal education for large sectors of the Iraqi population;

Whereas only 47 percent of Iraqi men and 29 percent of Iraqi women attended secondary school under the Hussein regime;

Whereas widespread neglect by the Hussein regime has resulted in Iraqi schools in utter disrepair, in many instances lacking plumbing, wiring, lighting, desks, windows, and doors;

Whereas despite the rehabilitation of 1,700 schools this year, over 10,000 schools in Iraq are still in need of repair;

Whereas educational materials for Iraqi children are outdated and in short supply;

Whereas improving the quality of and access to primary and secondary education is essential for a successful and free Iraq;

Whereas over the last decade, health indicators in central and southern Iraq have fallen to levels recorded in the least developed nations;

Whereas between 1990 and 2000, infant, child, and maternal mortality rates in Iraq doubled;

Whereas almost  $\frac{1}{3}$  of children in central and southern Iraq suffer from malnutrition;

Whereas widespread neglect by the Hussein regime has resulted in a 90 percent reduction in funding for the Iraqi health care system;

Whereas inadequate and antiquated medical equipment and training materials, sometimes 40 years old, risks the lives of Iraqis daily;

Whereas only  $\frac{1}{3}$  of Iraqi health care facilities offer emergency obstetric services;

Whereas 60 percent of foreign assistance by the United States to developing nations comes from private donation;

Whereas despite the recent economic downturn, private investment continues to far exceed United States Government investment to developing countries; and

Whereas there is currently no coordinated effort which allows private individuals in the United States to support the Iraqi people at the local level: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-  
 2       resentatives that the Coalition Provisional Authority, in  
 3       coordination with the Department of Defense, the Depart-  
 4       ment of State, and the United States Agency for Inter-  
 5       national Development, should establish a program to fos-  
 6       ter private assistance by the people of the United States  
 7       to Iraqi schools and hospitals through adopt-a-school and  
 8       adopt-a-hospital initiatives, whereby—

9               (1) mechanisms are created to establish an in-  
 10       ventory of specific material and financial educational

1 needs; those educational needs are made known to  
2 schools, education professionals, and students in the  
3 United States; avenues are established for the dona-  
4 tion, collection, and transfer of supplies and funds  
5 directly to Iraqi schools; online peer-to-peer con-  
6 sultation between education professionals in Iraq  
7 and the United States is established; and student-to-  
8 student communication is instituted; and

9 (2) mechanisms are created to establish an in-  
10 ventory of specific material and financial medical  
11 needs, including medical equipment and supplies;  
12 those medical needs are made known to hospitals  
13 and health care professionals in the United States;  
14 avenues are established for the donation, collection,  
15 and transfer of supplies and funds directly to Iraqi  
16 hospitals; and online peer-to-peer consultation be-  
17 tween health care professionals in Iraq and the  
18 United States is established.

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