

111TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 1520

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the situation  
in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 15, 2010

Mr. PITTS (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives  
regarding the situation in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan.

Whereas, on June 27, 2010, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan successfully held a referendum that legitimized the provisional government headed by President Roza Otunbayeva and established the foundations for a parliamentary system of government;

Whereas this referendum makes Kyrgyzstan the only country in the region to shift the balance of power to its parliament, as opposed to a centralized executive authority;

Whereas the provisional government was able to conduct the referendum peacefully and as scheduled, despite the violence which erupted on June 10, 2010, between ethnic Kyrgyz and Uzbek communities in the southern city of

Osh and which later spread, leaving at least several hundred dead and thousands injured;

Whereas the outbreak of violence in the south also forced as many as 400,000 people to flee their homes, most of whom are still displaced and in continued need of humanitarian assistance;

Whereas the provisional government of Kyrgyzstan, which came to power in April 2010 following large-scale opposition protests against the regime of former president Kurmanbek Bakiyev, has yet to fully extend its authority in the south and build the capacity necessary to address underlying political, social, and economic tensions;

Whereas parliamentary elections, are planned for October 10, 2010;

Whereas the planned parliamentary elections must be transparent and held in accordance with international standards in order to be accepted as legitimate by the country's electorate and serve as the bedrock of Kyrgyzstan's long-term stability;

Whereas stability in Kyrgyzstan and the broader Central Asia region, which borders Afghanistan, Iran, China, and Russia, is important to the national security interests of the United States;

Whereas Central Asia plays a vital role in the United States strategy for Afghanistan, including the transit center at Manas International Airport in Kyrgyzstan that forms an integral part of the northern supply route for North Atlantic Treaty Organization and United States-led coalition operations in Afghanistan;

Whereas promoting stability, respect for human rights, economic development, and democratic reform in Central Asia are important priorities for the United States; and

Whereas economic growth and democratic political development in Central Asia would provide a foundation for improved cooperation with the United States in confronting an array of global challenges, from nonproliferation and counter-narcotics to energy security: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That—

2               (1) the House of Representatives—

3                       (A) commends the peaceful conduct of the  
4                       referendum on June 27, 2010, and hopes that  
5                       the new constitutional order will promote great-  
6                       er democracy in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan;

7                       (B) regrets the loss of life in the recent  
8                       ethnic uprisings and expresses concern for the  
9                       welfare of those displaced;

10                      (C) encourages the development of ties of  
11                      cooperation between Members of the House of  
12                      Representatives and the Senate with members  
13                      of the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan in order to  
14                      strengthen the newly created parliamentary sys-  
15                      tem of governance in Kyrgyzstan;

16                      (D) commends the Government of  
17                      Uzbekistan for cooperating with the United Na-  
18                      tions High Commissioner for Refugees, the  
19                      International Committee of the Red Cross, the

1 United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF),  
2 and other international nongovernmental orga-  
3 nizations in meeting the urgent needs of ethnic  
4 Uzbek refugees who fled Kyrgyzstan;

5 (E) calls upon the Organization for Secu-  
6 rity and Cooperation in Europe to take an ac-  
7 tive role in assisting the Government of  
8 Kyrgyzstan by—

9 (i) strengthening the democratic insti-  
10 tutions of Kyrgyzstan;

11 (ii) encouraging respect for human  
12 rights and fundamental freedoms;

13 (iii) establishing a framework for dia-  
14 logue and reconciliation among the ethnic  
15 communities;

16 (iv) enhancing the capacity of  
17 Kyrgyzstan’s law enforcement to protect  
18 the civilian population against violence and  
19 threats of violence;

20 (v) supporting stability in Kyrgyzstan  
21 by deploying as quickly as possible a ro-  
22 bust police monitoring mission; and

23 (vi) promoting confidence building  
24 measures between the Government of  
25 Kyrgyzstan and ethnic communities;

1 (F) welcomes the commitment of the  
2 United States to provide \$48,300,000 to the  
3 Government to Kyrgyzstan for programs sup-  
4 porting humanitarian relief, reconstruction, and  
5 community stabilization; and

6 (G) commends the efforts of relief organi-  
7 zations and all persons responding to the imme-  
8 diate humanitarian needs of those displaced by  
9 the recent outbreak of violence in Kyrgyzstan;  
10 and

11 (2) it is the sense of the House of Representa-  
12 tives that—

13 (A) the Government of Kyrgyzstan should  
14 use its new legitimacy to—

15 (i) take immediate steps to restore  
16 order, the rule of law, and to develop the  
17 democratic process by promoting open dia-  
18 logue and a participatory, inclusive system  
19 of elections;

20 (ii) address the underlying political,  
21 social, and economic tensions that divide  
22 Kyrgyz society and take measures to im-  
23 prove relations between ethnic groups, and  
24 particularly to rebuild confidence with the  
25 minority Uzbek community;

1 (iii) bring to justice those who took  
2 part in the recent violence, and ensure that  
3 its military and police do not commit any  
4 abuses, including during investigations of  
5 the recent violence;

6 (iv) support a full and fair inter-  
7 national investigation into the causes of  
8 the violence in southern Kyrgyzstan, which  
9 will serve as a confidence-building meas-  
10 ure; and

11 (v) overcome the legacy of corruption  
12 left by the previous regimes and establish  
13 accountability to the public, by means of  
14 budget transparency, parliamentary over-  
15 sight, and freedom of the media;

16 (B) the Government of Kyrgyzstan should  
17 ensure that preparations for the upcoming par-  
18 liamentary election are transparent and that  
19 the election is held fully in accordance with  
20 international standards;

21 (C) the Government of Kyrgyzstan should  
22 ensure that there is sufficient time for prepara-  
23 tion of the parliamentary election, including  
24 registration of any new parties and candidates,

1 as well as campaigning, and that displaced vot-  
2 ers are not disenfranchised; and

3 (D) the Government of Uzbekistan should  
4 maintain an open border in order to ensure that  
5 the displaced and vulnerable populations seek-  
6 ing refuge in Uzbekistan may avail themselves  
7 of emergency humanitarian assistance and pro-  
8 tection services.

