

111TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 1769

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that in order to undermine the Taliban and their terrorist allies, the policy of the United States should support the recognition of Afghanistan's ethnic diversity, promoting mutual respect between various communities and regions of the country and bringing democracy closer to the people of Afghanistan by supporting constitutional change that recognizes and enables a democratic, decentralized, federal structure to replace the present failed centralized system of government, providing a political structure that reflects the diversity of the country and that builds trust and goodwill among Afghanistan's many communities.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 15, 2010

Mr. ROHRBACHER (for himself and Mr. KING of Iowa) 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 that in order to undermine the Taliban and their terrorist allies, the policy of the United States should support the recognition of Afghanistan's ethnic diversity, promoting mutual respect between various communities and regions of the country and bringing democracy closer to the people of Afghanistan by supporting constitutional change that recognizes and enables a democratic, decentralized, federal structure to replace the present failed centralized system of government, providing a political structure that reflects the diversity of the country and

that builds trust and goodwill among Afghanistan's many communities.

Whereas Afghanistan is a diverse country of minorities, including Pashtuns, Tajiks, Uzbeks, Hazaras, Turkmen, Aimaq, Baluch, and Nuristani;

Whereas decades of civil war and more than a century of repression and discrimination in Afghanistan has resulted in distrust, fear, and extremism;

Whereas supporting highly centralized political structures in Afghanistan has led to widespread abuse, discrimination, corruption, and lack of local participation and support;

Whereas the Taliban, aligned with al Qaeda, during their reign of terror in Afghanistan intensified policies of ethnic retribution and discrimination particularly against the peoples of northern Afghanistan;

Whereas the Taliban and their al Qaeda allies viewed ethnic diversity and political pluralism as the greatest threat to their political domination and extremist beliefs;

Whereas the Taliban and their al Qaeda allies used highly centralized governmental structures in Kabul to collectively punish Afghanistan's diverse ethnic communities, enforcing policies of ethnic discrimination and retribution;

Whereas the Taliban and their al Qaeda allies, after having brutally repressed Afghanistan's diverse cultures and peoples, particularly the non-Pashtun peoples, launched a global terrorist war aimed particularly at the United States, leading to the attacks on September 11, 2001;

Whereas the Taliban and their al Qaeda allies were defeated by an alliance of the northern peoples of Afghanistan,

mostly Tajik, Uzbek, and Hazaras fighting for their freedom and supported by a small number of United States Special Forces and directed air attacks by the United States Air Force;

Whereas the defeat of the Taliban and their al Qaeda allies in northern Afghanistan led to the collapse of the terrorist Taliban regime and the end to Taliban and al Qaeda repression and terrorism;

Whereas in defeating the Taliban and their al Qaeda allies, thousands of brave fighters from northern Afghanistan were killed but only one United States citizen lost his life in the North, demonstrating that the people of Afghanistan were willing and able to fight the Taliban and al Qaeda when they were fighting for their families, homes, and freedom;

Whereas the vital role of Afghanistan's diverse ethnic communities in defeating extremism and establishing a stable Afghanistan free of ethnic prejudice was ignored by the international community, which instead insisted on a highly centralized and personalized form of government, repeating the mistakes of the past;

Whereas western support for a flawed constitutional process which concentrated power in the hands of the President including the direct appointment without confirmation or consultation of all local, district, and provincial officials, including mayors, governors, and police chiefs, rejecting the basic democratic principle of local communities electing their own leaders;

Whereas by supporting a highly centralized government in Kabul, the mistakes of the past have been repeated, including during the Communist and nationalist periods,

leading to massive corruption, abuse of power, ethnic discrimination, and the disconnection and alienation of the people of Afghanistan from their government; and

Whereas nine years of efforts to build a national police force and national military to protect Afghanistan have fallen victim to a failed centralized political system and the widespread corruption and cronyism it engenders, resulting in involvement of ever more United States and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) ground forces and financial resources, from no more than 5,000 troops eight years ago to 150,000 troops today: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-  
2       resentatives that—

3               (1) the United States Government should—

4                       (A) engage in broadening the regional dia-  
5       logue on Afghanistan to include countries that  
6       have been supportive of the United States effort  
7       to defeat the Taliban such as India, Russia,  
8       Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan;

9                       (B) support and encourage a democratic  
10       decentralized federal political system in Afghan-  
11       istan that shifts more power to regions, prov-  
12       inces, and districts, recognizes Afghanistan's  
13       ethnic regional and cultural diversity and pro-  
14       motes mutual respect, trust, and goodwill be-  
15       tween the various ethnic communities and re-  
16       gions of the country;

1           (C) support urgent constitutional reform  
2           that will enable local, district, and provincial  
3           election of mayors, police chiefs, and governors  
4           which would bring democracy closer to the peo-  
5           ple of Afghanistan and encourage trust between  
6           Afghanistan's different ethnic groups;

7           (D) support the establishment of trained  
8           and properly regulated regional militias as well  
9           as a national army to fight the Taliban insur-  
10          gency, particularly utilizing the natural allies of  
11          the United States who helped defeat the  
12          Taliban in 2001 in order to enable the reduc-  
13          tion of the number of United States troops;

14          (E) undermine the extremism of the  
15          Taliban and their al Qaeda allies and their in-  
16          surgency by drawing the people of Afghanistan  
17          back into the fight by supporting a government  
18          that truly represents them; and

19          (F) actively oppose the inclusion of the  
20          Taliban in the Government of Afghanistan; and

21          (2) the United States should abandon its sup-  
22          port for the present failed centralized system of gov-  
23          ernment that has led to enormous corruption, the  
24          abuse of power, the growing drug trade, ethnic  
25          domination which has enabled extremism, and a

- 1 growing insurgency to take root again and require
- 2 enormous, decades more commitment in troops and
- 3 treasure.

