

human rights activist Emad Baghi, film director Jafar Panahi, and actress Fatemeh Motamed Arya; and

Whereas, according to Amnesty International, at least 346 people were known to have been executed in 2008, including eight juvenile offenders and two men who were executed by stoning; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls for authorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran to respect the rights of the people of Iran to freedom of speech, press, religion, association, and assembly;

(2) condemns the Government of Iran's human rights violations and calls on the Government of Iran to hold those responsible accountable for their actions;

(3) reminds the Government of Iran of its constitutional obligations under its 1979 Constitution and four international covenants to which it is a signatory;

(4) calls for the immediate release from detention of opposition figures, human rights defenders, journalists, and all others held for peacefully exercising their right to expression, assembly, and association;

(5) urges the Government of Iran to ensure that anyone placed on trial for committing acts of violence or other clearly criminal acts benefits from all of his or her rights to a fair trial, including proceedings that are open to the public, the right to be represented by independent counsel, and guarantees that no statements shall be admitted into evidence that were shown to have been obtained through torture, inhumane, or degrading treatment;

(6) calls for the Government of Iran to ensure those currently in detention are treated humanely, to provide detainees immediate prompt access to their families, lawyers, and any medical treatment that may be needed, and calls for the Government of Iran to hold accountable those responsible for torture of detainees; and

(7) calls for authorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran, consistent with their obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to guarantee all persons the "freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing, or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice".

SENATE RESOLUTION 356—CALLING UPON THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY TO FACILITATE THE REOPENING OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE'S THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL OF HALKI WITHOUT CONDITION OR FURTHER DELAY

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. REID, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 356

Whereas the Ecumenical Patriarchate is an institution with a history spanning 17 centuries, serving as the center of the Orthodox Christian Church throughout the world;

Whereas the Ecumenical Patriarchate sits at the crossroads of East and West, offering a unique perspective on the religions and cultures of the world;

Whereas the title of Ecumenical Patriarch was formally accorded to the Archbishop of Constantinople by a synod convened in Constantinople during the sixth century;

Whereas since November 1991, His All Holiness, Bartholomew I, has served as Arch-

bishop of Constantinople, New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch;

Whereas Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 1997, in recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions toward religious understanding and peace;

Whereas during the 110th Congress, 75 Senators and the overwhelming majority of members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives wrote to President George W. Bush and the Prime Minister of Turkey to express congressional concern, which continues today, regarding the absence of religious freedom for Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I in the areas of church-controlled Patriarchal succession, the confiscation of the vast majority of Patriarchal properties, recognition of the international Ecumenicity of the Patriarchate, and the reopening of the Theological School of Halki;

Whereas the Theological School of Halki, founded in 1844 and located outside Istanbul, Turkey, served as the principal seminary for the Ecumenical Patriarchate until its forcible closure by the Turkish authorities in 1971;

Whereas the alumni of this preeminent educational institution include numerous prominent Orthodox scholars, theologians, priests, bishops, and patriarchs, including Bartholomew I;

Whereas the Republic of Turkey has been a participating state of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) since signing the Helsinki Final Act in 1975;

Whereas in 1989, the OSCE participating states adopted the Vienna Concluding Document, committing to respect the right of religious communities to provide "training of religious personnel in appropriate institutions";

Whereas the continued closure of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's Theological School of Halki has been an ongoing issue of concern for the American people and the United States Congress and has been repeatedly raised by members of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe and by United States delegations to the OSCE's annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting;

Whereas in his address to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey on April 6, 2009, President Barack Obama said, "Freedom of religion and expression lead to a strong and vibrant civil society that only strengthens the state, which is why steps like reopening Halki Seminary will send such an important signal inside Turkey and beyond.";

Whereas in a welcomed development, the Prime Minister of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, met with the Ecumenical Patriarch on August 15, 2009, and, in an address to a wider gathering of minority religious leaders that day, concluded by stating, "We should not be of those who gather, talk, and disperse. A result should come out of this.";

Whereas during his visit to the United States in November 2009, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I raised the issue of the continued closure of the Theological School of Halki with President Obama, congressional leaders, and others; and

Whereas Prime Minister Erdoğan is scheduled to make an official visit to Washington, D.C., in early December 2009: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) welcomes the historic meeting between Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I;

(2) urges the Government of Turkey to facilitate the reopening of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's Theological School of Halki without condition or further delay; and

(3) urges the Government of Turkey to address other longstanding concerns relating to the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I was pleased to meet with the Ecumenical Patriarch, Bartholomew I, again last week during his visit to Washington. Together with the congressional leadership, we heard his impassioned call for support for the reopening of the Theological School of Halki, an institution that has come to symbolize many of the difficulties faced by the Patriarch, the remnant of the Greek community in Turkey and other religious and ethnic minorities in that country.

I had the pleasure to meet Bartholomew I during an official visit to modern-day Istanbul in 1998. He impressed me as a man of good will, anchored in his deep personal faith, seeking to promote understanding, justice and respect for the human rights and dignity of each individual, the very qualities that prompted the Congress a year earlier to award him the Congressional Gold Medal. Indeed, his leadership extends well beyond the borders of Turkey to the Orthodox community around the world.

The Ecumenical Patriarch repeatedly returned to the issue of the Halki Seminary in various meetings during his U.S. visit, including at this oval office meeting with President Obama. Earlier this year, several of my colleagues from the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which I chair, joined me in a letter to the President underscoring our longstanding concern over the continued closure of this unique institution.

Founded in 1844, the Theological School of Halki, located outside modern-day Istanbul, served as the principal seminary for the Ecumenical Patriarchate until its forcible closure by the Turkish authorities in 1971. Counted among alumni of this preeminent educational institution are numerous prominent Orthodox scholars, theologians, priests, and bishops as well as patriarchs, including Bartholomew I. Many of these scholars and theologians have served as faculty at other institutions serving Orthodox communities around the world.

While over the years there have been occasional indications by the Turkish authorities of pending action to reopen the seminary, to date all have failed to materialize. In a potentially promising development, Turkey's Prime Minister, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, met with the Ecumenical Patriarch in August. In an address to a wider gathering of minority religious leaders that day, Erdoğan concluded by stating, "We should not be of those who gather, talk and disperse. A result should come out of this."

I urge Prime Minister Erdoğan to follow through on the sentiment of those remarks by actions that will facilitate the reopening of the Halki Seminary without condition or further delay. As Chairman of the Helsinki Commission,

I am particularly mindful of the fact that the continued closure of the Theological School of Halki stands in clear violation of Turkey's obligations under the 1989 OSCE Vienna Concluding Document, which affirmed the right of religious communities to provide "training of religious personnel in appropriate institutions."

At a time when Turkey is seeking to chart a new course, the resolution of this longstanding issue would not only be a demonstration of Ankara's good will, but, as President Obama mentioned in his address to the Turkish Grand National Assembly in April, will send such an important signal inside Turkey and beyond. I remain hopeful and encourage Prime Minister Erdoğan to act decisively and without condition on this matter before his upcoming visit to Washington in early December.

To underscore the importance attached to the reopening of the Theological School of Halki and our solidarity with the Ecumenical Patriarch, I am pleased to introduce a resolution on this issue together with Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. REID, * * *

SENATE RESOLUTION 357—URGING THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES TO OBSERVE GLOBAL FAMILY DAY AND ONE DAY OF PEACE AND SHARING

Mr. INOUE (for himself and Mr. REID) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 357

Whereas in 2009, the people of the world suffered many calamitous events, including devastation from tsunamis, terror attacks, wars, famines, genocides, hurricanes, earthquakes, political and religious conflicts, diseases, poverty, and rioting, all necessitating global cooperation, compassion, and unity previously unprecedented among diverse cultures, faiths, and economic classes;

Whereas grave global challenges in 2010 may require cooperation and innovative problem-solving among citizens and nations on an even greater scale;

Whereas on December 15, 2000, Congress adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution 138, expressing the sense of Congress that the President of the United States should issue a proclamation each year calling upon the people of the United States and interested organizations to observe an international day of peace and sharing at the beginning of each year;

Whereas in 2001, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 56/2, which invited "Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and all the peoples of the world to celebrate One Day in Peace, 1 January 2002, and every year thereafter";

Whereas many foreign heads of State have recognized the importance of establishing Global Family Day, a special day of international unity, peace, and sharing, on the first day of each year; and

Whereas family is the basic structure of humanity, thus, we must all look to the stability and love within our individual families to create stability in the global community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate urgently requests—

(1) the people of the United States to observe Global Family Day and One Day of Peace and Sharing with appropriate activities stressing the need—

(A) to eradicate violence, hunger, poverty, and suffering; and

(B) to establish greater trust and fellowship among peace-loving countries and families everywhere; and

(2) American businesses, labor organizations, and faith and civic leaders to join in promoting appropriate activities for Americans and in extending appropriate greetings from the families of the United States to families in the rest of the world.

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, today, I am submitting a Senate resolution to observe Global Family Day, One Day of Peace and Sharing, and am pleased to be joined in this endeavor by Senator REID.

We are a global society, interconnected by highly efficient modes of communication and transportation. With continued advancements in technology, nations will become even more interdependent upon each other. For this reason, I will continue to support and advocate for world peace. This is not a lofty pursuit. I have great confidence that if nations use everything at their disposal, they can promote peaceful, diplomatic options instead of war.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2786. Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3590, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2786. Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3590, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act".

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL AMERICANS

Subtitle A—Immediate Improvements in Health Care Coverage for All Americans

Sec. 1001. Amendments to the Public Health Service Act.

"PART A—INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP MARKET REFORMS

"SUBPART II—IMPROVING COVERAGE

"Sec. 2711. No lifetime or annual limits.

"Sec. 2712. Prohibition on rescissions.

"Sec. 2713. Coverage of preventive health services.

"Sec. 2714. Extension of dependent coverage.

"Sec. 2715. Development and utilization of uniform explanation of coverage documents and standardized definitions.

"Sec. 2716. Prohibition of discrimination based on salary.

"Sec. 2717. Ensuring the quality of care.

"Sec. 2718. Bringing down the cost of health care coverage.

"Sec. 2719. Appeals process.

Sec. 1002. Health insurance consumer information.

Sec. 1003. Ensuring that consumers get value for their dollars.

Sec. 1004. Effective dates.

Subtitle B—Immediate Actions to Preserve and Expand Coverage

Sec. 1101. Immediate access to insurance for uninsured individuals with a preexisting condition.

Sec. 1102. Reinsurance for early retirees.

Sec. 1103. Immediate information that allows consumers to identify affordable coverage options.

Sec. 1104. Administrative simplification.

Sec. 1105. Effective date.

Subtitle C—Quality Health Insurance Coverage for All Americans

PART I—HEALTH INSURANCE MARKET REFORMS

Sec. 1201. Amendment to the Public Health Service Act.

"SUBPART I—GENERAL REFORM

"Sec. 2701. Fair health insurance premiums.

"Sec. 2702. Guaranteed availability of coverage.

"Sec. 2703. Guaranteed renewability of coverage.

"Sec. 2704. Prohibition of preexisting condition exclusions or other discrimination based on health status.

"Sec. 2705. Prohibiting discrimination against individual participants and beneficiaries based on health status.

"Sec. 2706. Non-discrimination in health care.

"Sec. 2707. Comprehensive health insurance coverage.

"Sec. 2708. Prohibition on excessive waiting periods.

PART II—OTHER PROVISIONS

Sec. 1251. Preservation of right to maintain existing coverage.

Sec. 1252. Rating reforms must apply uniformly to all health insurance issuers and group health plans.

Sec. 1253. Effective dates.

Subtitle D—Available Coverage Choices for All Americans

PART I—ESTABLISHMENT OF QUALIFIED HEALTH PLANS

Sec. 1301. Qualified health plan defined.

Sec. 1302. Essential health benefits requirements.

Sec. 1303. Special rules.

Sec. 1304. Related definitions.

PART II—CONSUMER CHOICES AND INSURANCE COMPETITION THROUGH HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGES

Sec. 1311. Affordable choices of health benefit plans.

Sec. 1312. Consumer choice.

Sec. 1313. Financial integrity.

PART III—STATE FLEXIBILITY RELATING TO EXCHANGES

Sec. 1321. State flexibility in operation and enforcement of Exchanges and related requirements.