

RESOLUTION RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, on December 28, 2017, popular protests against the Iranian regime began in the city of Mashad and rapidly spread throughout the country, in the most significant anti-government protests in Iran since June 2009; and

WHEREAS, the protesters have expressed numerous economic grievances, including the regime's widespread corruption and the Revolutionary Guard Corps' control of the country's economy; and

WHEREAS, protesters have decried the regime's costly, destabilizing activities abroad, including its support for terrorist groups such as Hezbollah and the murderous Assad regime in Syria; and

WHEREAS, reports indicate that more than 1,000 Iranians have been arrested and almost two dozen killed in connection with the protests; and

WHEREAS, the Iranian regime has shut down mobile internet access and has blocked and pressured companies to cut off social media applications used by activists to organize and publicize the protests; and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 2018, regime officials threatened to crack down, with Brigadier General Esmacel Kowsari of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps stating, "If this situation continues, the officials will definitely make some decisions and at that point this business will be finished."; and

WHEREAS, Congress has provided authority to designate and sanction elements of the Iranian regime involved in significant corruption and serious human rights abuses; and

WHEREAS the regime has routinely violated the human rights of Iranian citizens, including ongoing, systematic, and serious restrictions of freedom of peaceful assembly and association and freedom of opinion and expression, including the continuing closures of media outlets, arrests of journalists, and the censorship of expression in online forums such as blogs and websites; and

WHEREAS, on December 29, 2017, the U.S. Department of State strongly condemned the arrest of peaceful protesters and on January 1, 2018, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the **United Kingdom** has stated that there should be meaningful debate about the legitimate and important issues the protesters are raising, and on January 2, 2018, the **French** Foreign Ministry stated that demonstrating freely is a fundamental right and has expressed its concern over the large number of victims and arrests, and on January 1, 2018, the **Canadian** Ministry of Foreign Affairs called on the Iranian authorities to uphold and respect democratic and human rights and reiterated its support for the fundamental rights of the Iranians, including freedom of expression; and

WHEREAS Iran is a member of the United Nations, voted for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and is a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, among other international human rights treaties; and

JAN 12 2018 WHEREAS, currently pending in Congress is a Resolution, **H.Res.676 - Supporting**

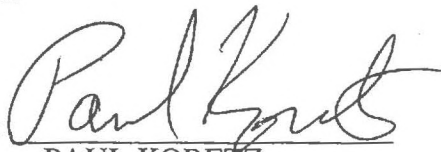
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the rights of the people of Iran to free expression, condemning the Iranian regime for its crackdown on legitimate protests, and for other purposes, which declares that the House of Representatives—

- (1) stands with the people of Iran who are engaged in legitimate and peaceful protests against an oppressive, corrupt regime;
- (2) condemns the Iranian regime's serious human rights abuses against the Iranian people, significant corruption, and destabilizing activities abroad;
- (3) notes the statements of support for the protestors from key allies and calls on all democratic governments and institutions to clearly support the Iranian people's right to live in a free society;
- (4) demands that the Iranian regime abide by its international obligations with respect to human rights and civil liberties, including freedoms of assembly; speech, and press;
- (5) urges the Administration to use targeted sanctions and work to convene emergency sessions of the United Nations Security Council and the United Nations Human Rights Council to condemn the ongoing human rights violations perpetrated by the Iranian regime and establish a mechanism by which the Security Council can monitor such violations;
- (6) encourages the Administration to expedite the license of communications technology to Iran to improve the ability of the Iranian people to speak freely;
- (7) calls on companies to reject requests by the regime to cut off the Iranian people from social media and other communications platforms;
- (8) respects the proud history and rich culture of the Iranian nation and fully supports efforts by the people of Iran to promote the establishment of basic freedoms that build the foundation for the emergence of a freely elected, open, and democratic political system; and
- (9) urges the President and the Secretary of State to work with the international community to ensure that violations of human rights are part of all formal and informal multilateral or bilateral discussions with and regarding Iran;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2017-2018 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for H.Res.676, supporting the rights of the people of Iran to free expression and condemning the Iranian regime for its crackdown on legitimate protests, as further detailed in the text of this Resolution.

PRESENTED BY:



PAUL KORETZ
Councilman, 5th District

SECONDED BY:

