

HJR209 ENROLLED



1 HJR209

2 DI46TTN-2

3 By Representatives Oliver, Lipscomb, Crawford, Whitt, Marques,
4 Brown, Smith, Rehm, Wood (D), Whorton, Underwood, Brinyark,
5 Moore (P), Estes, DuBose, Faulkner, Kirkland, Colvin,
6 Wadsworth, Wood (R), Shaw, Hulsey, Hammett, Butler, Harrison,
7 Bedsole, Rigsby, Lomax, Simpson, Shirey, Lamb, Gidley, Mooney,
8 Bolton, Starnes, Stubbs, Fincher, Chestnut, Lands, Travis,
9 Stringer, Kiel, Woods, Shaver

10 RFD: RULES

11 First Read: 18-Apr-24



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1 Enrolled, An Act,

2 EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE IRANIAN PEOPLES' DESIRE
3 FOR A DEMOCRATIC, SECULAR, AND NON-NUCLEAR REPUBLIC OF IRAN
4 AND CONDEMNING VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND
5 STATE-SPONSORED TERRORISM BY THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT.

6

7 WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the Constitution of
8 the United States guarantees freedom of assembly, speech,
9 and the right to petition the government for a redress of
10 grievances; the right to protest is also protected under
11 international human rights law by provisions enshrined in
12 various international and regional treaties guaranteeing
13 each of these distinct yet mutually reinforcing rights; but
14 many countries' governments do not offer these rights and
15 protections; one such nation is the Islamic Republic of
16 Iran; and

17 WHEREAS, beginning in 2017 and continuing for several
18 months, the Iranian regime suppressed economic, political,
19 and social protests with repressive forces that resulted in
20 at least 25 deaths and 4,000 arrests; and

21 WHEREAS, on November 15, 2019, popular protests
22 against the Iranian regime began and spread rapidly to at
23 least 100 cities throughout the country with reports
24 indicating that Iranian security forces used lethal force,
25 killing approximately 1,500 people in less than two weeks of
26 unrest, and thousands more were detained; and

27 WHEREAS, beginning in September 2022, anti-government
28 protests, many of which were led by women and youths,



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29 ignited in response to the death of Mahsa Amini, a
30 22-year-old Kurdish Iranian woman who was arrested by the
31 morality police that enforce Iran's mandatory dress code
32 laws; in retaliation, the Iranian regime's security forces
33 have killed hundreds and arrested tens of thousands of
34 protesters, two of whom, Mohsen Shekari and Majidreza
35 Rahnavard, were hung on December 8 and 12, 2022, in Tehran
36 and Mashhad, while dozens more have been convicted of
37 "Moharebeh" (waging war on God) and are at risk of
38 execution; and

39 WHEREAS, these protests are rooted in the more than
40 four decades of organized resistance against the Iranian
41 dictatorship, which most recently have been led by women who
42 have endured torture, sexual and gender-based violence, and
43 death; and

44 WHEREAS, the similarity in slogans and tactics used
45 by protests nationwide reflect the overarching demands of
46 the Iranian people for social freedom and political change
47 and point to the organized, unified national nature of the
48 protests; and

49 WHEREAS, in the 118th Congress, the House of
50 Representatives passed House Concurrent Resolution 7,
51 "Condemning the Iranian regime's human rights abuses against
52 the brave women and men of Iran peacefully demonstrating in
53 more than 133 cities"; House Concurrent Resolution 7 urges
54 the administration to support the people of Iran and calls
55 on the international community to publicly condemn violence
56 by the Iranian regime against peaceful protesters, to speak



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57 out against violations by the regime of fundamental human
58 rights, including freedom of expression, assembly, and
59 redress of grievances of the Iranian people; and

60 WHEREAS, on November 24, 2022, the United Nations
61 Human Rights Council established a fact-finding mission to
62 conduct an independent investigation into the ongoing deadly
63 violence related to the protests in Iran that began on
64 September 16, 2022; and

65 WHEREAS, the Department of State's 2021 Country
66 Reports on Human Rights Practices, released on April 13,
67 2022, cites that Iran's "government and its agents
68 reportedly committed arbitrary or unlawful killings, most
69 commonly executions for crimes not meeting the international
70 legal standard of 'most serious crimes' or for crimes
71 committed by juvenile offenders, as well as executions after
72 trials without due process"; and

73 WHEREAS, senior Iranian government, military,
74 judicial, and security officials have for decades ordered or
75 committed egregious human rights violations and acts of
76 terror; the Iranian regime has arbitrarily and brutally
77 suppressed ethnic and religious minorities, including
78 Iranian Kurds, Baluchis, Arabs, Christians, Jews, Baha'is,
79 Zoroastrians, and even Sunni Muslims; deprived them of their
80 basic human rights; and has in many cases executed them; the
81 Iranian people have been denied fundamental freedoms, for
82 which reason they are rejecting dictatorship and religious
83 tyranny; and

84 WHEREAS, during the 2022 protests in Iran, tens of



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85 thousands of Americans gathered throughout the United States
86 to call for the end of the Iranian regime and show
87 solidarity with the protesters risking their lives to
88 reclaim their country and establish freedom, human rights,
89 and democracy in Iran; and

90 WHEREAS, the Islamic Republic's malign activities in
91 the Middle East and around the world pose a threat to the
92 United States' national security interests and those of our
93 allies, including Israel; and

94 WHEREAS, senior Iranian government, military,
95 judicial, and security officials have ordered or committed
96 egregious human rights violations and acts of terror;
97 instead of representing the interests of the Iranian people,
98 the Iranian regime has long used its Foreign Ministry and
99 diplomatic representations abroad to orchestrate terror
100 plots and whitewash gross human rights violations in Iran;
101 and

102 WHEREAS, on July 2, 2018, the Belgian Federal
103 Prosecutor's Office announced it had foiled a terrorist plot
104 against the "Free Iran 2018-the Alternative" gathering held
105 on June 30, 2018, in support of the Iranian people's
106 struggle for freedom; and

107 WHEREAS, Assadollah Assadi, a senior Iranian diplomat
108 based in the Iranian embassy in Vienna, Austria, was
109 arrested in Germany and in February 2021 was convicted in
110 Belgium and sentenced to 20 years of imprisonment in
111 connection with the planned terror plot in Paris at the Free
112 Iran gathering; Assadollah Assadi served as the third



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113 secretary of the Iranian embassy in Austria; and

114 WHEREAS, on December 15, 2022, the Special Court for
115 Combating Corruption and Organized Crime in Albania
116 sentenced an Iranian national to 10 years in prison on
117 terrorism related charges, including attempts to engage in
118 espionage and the assassination of Iranian dissidents in
119 Albania; Iran's malign activities in the Balkans pose a
120 serious threat to the United States' national security
121 interests; and

122 WHEREAS, on November 23, 2022, the Department of the
123 Treasury announced additional action on Iranian security
124 forces, including Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps forces,
125 for their violent crackdown on anti-government protests in
126 Iran's Kurdistan Province and surrounding areas; Iran is
127 recognized as the number one state sponsor of terrorism
128 worldwide, and any actions to allow the Iranian regime to
129 facilitate nuclear or other terrorist plots must be
130 condemned; and

131 WHEREAS, Qasem Soleimani was the world's most
132 prolific terrorist, personally culpable for the deaths of
133 over 600 Americans and the maiming of thousands more,
134 including the torture and killing of tens of thousands of
135 people across the Middle East; he was personally sanctioned
136 by the United Nations and the European Union and was
137 designated a terrorist by the United States of America; the
138 strength and decisive action taken by former President
139 Donald J. Trump in eliminating Qasem Soleimani was a
140 monumental achievement in the War on Terror, sending a clear



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141 message that the United States of America will not allow her
142 citizens to be attacked by terrorists without retaliation;
143 and

144 WHEREAS, the Iranian regime recently engaged in a
145 terror plot in Jordan that killed three American soldiers
146 and injured 40 more; and

147 WHEREAS, the members of this body condemn past and
148 present Iranian state-sponsored terrorist attacks against
149 United States citizens and officials as well as Iranian
150 dissidents, including the Iranian regime's terror plot
151 against the "Free Iran 2018-the Alternative" gathering in
152 Paris; now therefore,

153 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
154 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the members of this body
155 call on relevant United States government agencies to work
156 with European allies, including those in the Balkans where
157 Iran has expanded its presence, to hold Iran accountable for
158 breaching diplomatic privileges; we also call on nations to
159 prevent the malign activities of the Iranian regime's
160 diplomatic missions with the goal of closing them down and
161 expelling its agents.

162 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the members of this body
163 stand with the people of Iran who are legitimately defending
164 their rights for freedom against repression as well as
165 condemn the brutal killing of Iranian protesters by the
166 regime.

167 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the members of this body
168 recognize the rights of the Iranian people and their



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169 struggle to establish a democratic, secular, and non-nuclear
170 Republic of Iran with the right to vote, free elections, and
171 ethnic equality, as well as a foreign policy based on
172 peaceful coexistence.



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Speaker of the House of Representatives

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
and was passed by the House 23-Apr-24.

John Treadwell
Clerk

Senate

02-May-24

Adopted