

## HJR209 INTRODUCED



1 HJR209

2 DI46TTN-1

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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57 on the international community to publicly condemn violence  
58 by the Iranian regime against peaceful protesters, to speak  
59 out against violations by the regime of fundamental human  
60 rights, including freedom of expression, assembly, and  
61 redress of grievances of the Iranian people; and

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

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

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



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85 tyranny; and

86 WHEREAS, during the 2022 protests in Iran, tens of  
87 thousands of Americans gathered throughout the United States  
88 to call for the end of the Iranian regime and show  
89 solidarity with the protesters risking their lives to  
90 reclaim their country and establish freedom, human rights,  
91 and democracy in Iran; and

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

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

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

109 WHEREAS, Assadollah Assadi, a senior Iranian diplomat  
110 based in the Iranian embassy in Vienna, Austria, was  
111 arrested in Germany and in February 2021 was convicted in  
112 Belgium and sentenced to 20 years of imprisonment in



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113 connection with the planned terror plot in Paris at the Free  
114 Iran gathering; Assadollah Assadi served as the third  
115 secretary of the Iranian embassy in Austria; and

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

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

133 WHEREAS, Qasem Soleimani was the world's most  
134 prolific terrorist, personally culpable for the deaths of  
135 over 600 Americans and the maiming of thousands more,  
136 including the torture and killing of tens of thousands of  
137 people across the Middle East; he was personally sanctioned  
138 by the United Nations and the European Union and was  
139 designated a terrorist by the United States of America; the  
140 strength and decisive action taken by former President



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141 Donald J. Trump in eliminating Qasem Soleimani was a  
142 monumental achievement in the War on Terror, sending a clear  
143 message that the United States of America will not allow her  
144 citizens to be attacked by terrorists without retaliation;  
145 and

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

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

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

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



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169           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the members of this body  
170 recognize the rights of the Iranian people and their  
171 struggle to establish a democratic, secular, and non-nuclear  
172 Republic of Iran with the right to vote, free elections, and  
173 ethnic equality, as well as a foreign policy based on  
174 peaceful coexistence.