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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Agents of the Iranian regime arrested and beat Mahsa (Zhina) Amini, a 22-year-old Iranian woman, on September 13, 2022, for not fully covering her hair; and

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WHEREAS, The brutal beating reportedly knocked Mahsa Amini unconscious, and she remained in a coma for three days; and

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WHEREAS, On September 16, 2022, Mahsa Amini died from the injuries she received from governmental thugs; and

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WHEREAS, The murder of Mahsa Amini ignited a spark, inspiring the people of Iran to rise up against their oppressors, calling for freedom and human dignity; her death, coming after years of oppression, arrests, and executions, set off a firestorm, first on social media and then on the streets of Iran; and

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WHEREAS, Protests started in Mahsa Amini's home province and spread across Iran, uniting disparate ethnic groups, such as the Kurds, Persians, Baloch, and Azerbaijanis, against the regime; and

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WHEREAS, Shervin Hajipour composed a song, threading together Twitter posts hashtagged MahsaAmini, to explain the

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1 multitude of reasons behind the protests; and

2 WHEREAS, Shervin Hajipour was arrested by the government,
3 and the song taken down shortly after he posted it online; and

4 WHEREAS, Shervin Hajipour's song, particularly one phrase,
5 women, life, freedom, has been taken up by Iranian protestors
6 in defiance of the regime and its totalitarian henchmen; and

7 WHEREAS, Social media is replete with videos and images of
8 women and schoolgirls baring their heads, burning their
9 mandatory head coverings, destroying regime photos of Iran's
10 dictator, Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, and reclaiming their
11 schools and public spaces, even if only momentarily, from the
12 dictates of the regime's centralized bureaucracy; and

13 WHEREAS, Videos show these same women and schoolgirls
14 chanting the slogan, women, life, freedom, in defiance of the
15 government; and

16 WHEREAS, Despite the government's repression, protests
17 have continued to spread, often led by women, including Hadis
18 Najafi, who, while boldly protesting, was shot six times and
19 was tragically killed by the regime, and the teenager Nika
20 Shakarami, whose mutilated and abused body was finally
21 released by the government to her family days after she

1 disappeared during a protest; and

2 WHEREAS, In Zahedan, Iran, governmental forces attacked
3 protestors, killing an unknown number of the local Baloch
4 minority who were protesting the death of Mahsa Amina and the
5 purported rape of a local 15-year-old girl by a commander in
6 the regime's Revolutionary Guard; and

7 WHEREAS, The Iranian government has sought to undermine
8 the protest movement by cutting access to the internet,
9 censoring its opponents, and blaming the unrest on foreign
10 agitation and disinformation; and

11 WHEREAS, An unknown number of Iranians have been killed in
12 the governmental crackdown against the protests, and many more
13 protestors have been arrested; and

14 WHEREAS, Shortly after the protests began, an Iranian
15 missile attack on Iraqi Kurdistan killed an American woman and
16 12 Kurds while injuring countless others; and

17 WHEREAS, Per reports on social media trickling out of the
18 country, Iranian citizens in Tehran continued to chant
19 anti-governmental slogans and to call for the fall of the
20 regime from their windows and balconies at night despite the
21 regime's brutal suppression techniques; and

1 WHEREAS, The Iranian people have risen time and time again
2 against their authoritarian government, only to be repressed
3 and terrorized over and over again; and

4 WHEREAS, The Iranian regime has ruthlessly snuffed out
5 protests in the past, arresting and killing its own citizens,
6 such as Navid Afkari, a young Iranian wrestler who was hanged
7 on September 12, 2020, on dubious charges and without due
8 process; and

9 WHEREAS, Iran has the highest number of executions per
10 capita of any country in the world; and

11 WHEREAS, Iran, under the leadership of Supreme Leader
12 Khamenei, a modern-day Yazid, has been the leading state
13 sponsor of terrorism, according to the U.S. State Department;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Iran has repeatedly taken U.S. and other allied
16 citizens hostage, holding them in deplorable conditions, in
17 demand for huge ransoms and other concessions; and

18 WHEREAS, Iran played a direct role in the deaths of at
19 least 603 U.S. service members in Iraq and an unknown number in
20 Afghanistan; and

1 WHEREAS, Iran, using the billions of dollars released by
2 the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JPCOA), joined with
3 Russia's President Vladimir Putin to brutally repress the
4 Syrian revolution, contributing to hundreds of thousands dead,
5 millions displaced, and a global refugee crisis; and

6 WHEREAS, Iran forced Afghan refugees in Iran to take up
7 arms in Syria against the Syrian people; and

8 WHEREAS, Iran seized ten U.S. sailors in the Arabian Gulf
9 in early 2016, broadcasting photos of their capture and
10 captivity prior to releasing them; and

11 WHEREAS, Iran has provided and continues to provide arms
12 and support to groups hostile to the U.S. and its allies; it
13 has supplied warfighting materials to Russian President Putin
14 for use in Ukraine; and

15 WHEREAS, Iranian governmental revenues and instances of
16 international provocation, including attacks on U.S. flagged
17 shipping and on U.S. allies, have soared since the beginning
18 of 2021; and

19 WHEREAS, Iranian-aligned groups have repeatedly sought to
20 interfere in U.S. elections, disrupting the democratic

1 process; and

2 WHEREAS, Iran unleashed a massive cyberattack on Albania,
3 a NATO ally, in July 2022, causing the country to consider
4 invoking Article 5 of the treaty organization; and

5 WHEREAS, Iran has recently plotted to assassinate former
6 American officials and to kidnap Masih Alinejad, a prominent
7 Iranian activist living in New York; and

8 WHEREAS, On August 12, 2022, a would-be assassin attacked
9 Salman Rushdie in New York; he had been targeted for
10 assassination by the Iranian government, and the attacker
11 sympathized with the Iranian regime; and

12 WHEREAS, Since the beginning of 2021, the Iranian regime
13 has made rapid, irreversible strides in developing its nuclear
14 program; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we stand with the
17 Iranian martyrs to liberty who are currently dying on the
18 streets and in the prisons of Iran; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That we join with the Iranian protestors who are
20 fearlessly confronting a despotic regime, demanding freedom,

1 dignity, and a better future, and urge President Biden and the
2 members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation to eschew any
3 further negotiations with or cash releases to the Iranian
4 regime while it is murdering its own citizens; and be it
5 further

6 RESOLVED, That the U.S. use this opportunity to once more
7 unfurl America's standard as a bulwark of freedom and liberty
8 against the forces of oppression and tyranny in a troubled
9 world; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That we urge President Biden and the members of
11 the Illinois Congressional Delegation to use America's
12 influence on the world stage to work with the United States'
13 international partners to isolate the Iranian regime; and be
14 it further

15 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
16 delivered to President Biden and all members of the Illinois
17 Congressional Delegation.