

Legislative Bulletin.....June 19, 2009

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H.Res. 560 – Expressing support for all Iranian citizens who embrace the values of freedom, human rights, civil liberties, and rule of law, and for other purposes. (Berman, D-CA)

Order of Business: The resolution will be considered under suspension of the rules on Friday, June 19, 2009. Chairman Berman came to the floor and asked for unanimous consent that the resolution be considered under suspension of the rules.

Summary: H.Res. 560 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Expresses its support for all Iranian citizens who embrace the values of freedom, human rights, civil liberties, and rules of law;
- “Condemns the ongoing violence against demonstrators by the Government of Iran and pro-government militias, as well as the ongoing government suppression of independent electronic communication through interference with the Internet and cellphones; and
- “Affirms the universality of individual rights and the importance of democratic and fair elections.”

Background: The resolution is a bipartisan effort introduced by both House Foreign Affairs Chairman Howard Berman (D-CA) and Republican Conference Chairman Mike Pence (R-IN).

On June 12, 2009, “elections” were held in Iran, resulting in the supposed victory of incumbent President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad over Mir Hussein Mousavi. As a consequence of the election, which many question as being engineered to ensure the victory of Ahmadinejad, massive demonstrations arose in the streets. Ahmadinejad’s government militia forces have attacked protestors, demonstrators, and media, all fighting to defend fair and democratic elections, causing deaths and injuries throughout Iran.

Just this morning, Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned protestors in a 100 minute speech, that they should abandon their protests. His speech, translated by the BBC, warned that dissidents would be "responsible for chaos" if they continued their protests. He went further to assert that "The Islamic Republic would not cheat and would not betray the vote of the people." According to a New York Times article found [here](#), "He blamed 'media belonging to Zionists, evil media' for seeking to show divisions between those who supported the Iranian state and those who did not, while, in fact, the election had shown Iranians to be united in their commitment to the Islamic revolutionary state."

The protests in the streets are being reported as the largest since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. For some pictures of the oppression and violence in the streets, click [here](#).

Committee Action: H.Res. 560 was introduced on June 18, 2009, and referred to the House Foreign Affairs Committee, where no further action was taken.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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