

The House Committee on Special Rules offers the following substitute to HR 1066:

A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing support for the Iranian people's desire for a democratic, secular, and non-nuclear
2 Republic of Iran and condemning violations of human rights and state sponsored terrorism
3 by the Iranian government; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, beginning in 2017 and continuing for several months after protests erupted in
5 more than 100 cities, the Iranian regime suppressed such protests with repressive forces that
6 resulted in at least 25 deaths and 4,000 arrests, including decorated wrestling champion
7 Navid Afkari, who was later executed in September 2020 amidst international outrage; and

8 WHEREAS, on November 15, 2019, popular protests against the Iranian regime began and
9 spread rapidly to at least 100 cities throughout the country, and reports indicate that Iranian
10 security forces used lethal force; about 1,500 people were killed during less than two weeks
11 of unrest, and thousands more were detained during these protests; and

12 WHEREAS, beginning in September 2022, anti-government protests ignited in response to
13 the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22 year-old Kurdish Iranian woman who was arrested by the
14 morality police that enforce Iran's mandatory dress code laws; and

15 WHEREAS, women and youth have led the 2022 protests in Iran, demanding social freedom
16 and political change; and

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

20 WHEREAS, in several months of continuing protests in hundreds of cities throughout Iran,
21 the regime's security forces have killed hundreds and arrested tens of thousands of protesters,
22 two of whom, Mohsen Shekari and Majidreza Rahnavard (both 23 years old), were hung on
23 December 8 and 12, 2022, in Tehran and Mashhad, while dozens more have been convicted
24 of "Moharebeh" (waging war on God) and are at risk of execution; and

25 WHEREAS, according to a December 9, 2022, Amnesty International report, "Iran's security
26 forces have killed with absolute impunity more than 40 children and injured many more in
27 a bid to crush the spirit of resistance among the country's youth and retain their iron grip on
28 power at any cost"; and

29 WHEREAS, the similarity in slogans and tactics used by protests nationwide reflect the
30 overarching demands of the Iranian people and point to the organized, unified national nature
31 of the protests; and

32 WHEREAS, in the 118th Congress, the House of Representatives passed House Concurrent
33 Resolution 7, "Condemning the Iranian regime's human rights abuses against the brave
34 women and men of Iran peacefully demonstrating in more than 133 cities"; and

35 WHEREAS, House Concurrent Resolution 7 urges the administration to support the people
36 of Iran and calls on the international community to publicly condemn violence by the Iranian
37 regime against peaceful protestors, to speak out against violations by the regime of
38 fundamental human rights, including freedom of expression, assembly and redress of
39 grievances of the Iranian people; and

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

43 WHEREAS, on December 14, 2022, the United Nations Economic and Social Council
44 (ECOSOC) adopted a resolution to expel Iran from the Commission on the Status of Women
45 (CSW) for the remainder of its four-year term ending in 2026; and

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

51 WHEREAS, on October 25, 2021, the United Nations Special Rapporteur (UNSR) on the
52 situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran Javaid Rehman told the United
53 Nations General Assembly that almost all executions in the country constituted an arbitrary
54 deprivation of life, noting the "extensive, vague, and arbitrary grounds in Iran for imposing
55 the death sentence, which quickly can turn this punishment into a political tool"; and

56 WHEREAS, the Iranian regime has arbitrarily and brutally suppressed ethnic and religious
57 minorities, including Iranian Kurds, Baluchis, Arabs, Christians, Jews, Baha'is, Zoroastrians,
58 and even Sunni Muslims; deprived them of their basic human rights; and has in many cases
59 executed them; and

60 WHEREAS, the Iranian people have been deprived of their fundamental freedoms, for which
61 reason they are rejecting dictatorship and religious tyranny, as evident in their protest

62 slogans, which include, "Down with Khamenei!", "My life for Iran!", "We will fight, we will
63 die, we will reclaim Iran!"; and

64 WHEREAS, senior Iranian government, military, judicial, and security officials have for
65 decades ordered or committed egregious human rights violations and acts of terror; and

66 WHEREAS, during the 2022 protests in Iran, tens of thousands of Americans gathered
67 throughout the United States to call for the end of the Iranian regime and show solidarity
68 with the protestors risking their lives to reclaim their country and establish freedom, human
69 rights, and democracy in Iran; and

70 WHEREAS, according to a November 4, 2023, National Union for Democracy in Iran report,
71 the regime in Iran has taken over 30 dual-national hostages since the beginning of 2018; and

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

75 WHEREAS, on November 23, 2022, the Department of the Treasury announced additional
76 action on Iranian security forces, including Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)
77 forces, for their violent crackdown on anti-government protests throughout Iran; and

78 WHEREAS, on October 28, 2023, a statue devoted to Cyrus the Great, the first king of the
79 Achaemenid Persian Empire, was unveiled at the Millennium Gate in Atlanta, Georgia,
80 commemorating his respect for human rights and signifying the strong ties between the
81 people of Georgia and the people of Iran; and

82 WHEREAS, in the 115th Congress, the House of Representatives passed House
83 Resolution 4744, which called on the United States to "condemn Iranian human rights abuses
84 against dissidents, including the massacre in 1988 and the suppression of political
85 demonstrations in 1999, 2009, and 2017, and pressure the Government of Iran to provide
86 family members detailed information that they were denied about the final resting places of
87 any missing victims of such abuses"; and

88 WHEREAS, on January 13, 2022, a United Nations report urged "the international
89 community to call for accountability with respect to long-standing emblematic events that
90 have been met with persistent impunity, including the enforced disappearances and summary
91 and arbitrary executions of 1988 and the November 2019 protests"; and

92 WHEREAS, the killings of thousands of political prisoners in 1988 were carried out based
93 on a fatwa to execute all political prisoners who remained loyal to the Iranian Resistance, and
94 subsequent death commissions were formed on July 19, 1988, whose members included the
95 current Iranian regime's President, Ebrahim Raisi; an official from the Ministry of
96 Intelligence; and a state prosecutor, to implement the fatwa; and

97 WHEREAS, the United States should be involved in any establishment of an international
98 investigation into extrajudicial killings of Iranian dissidents; and

99 WHEREAS, senior Iranian government, military, judicial, and security officials have for
100 decades ordered or committed egregious human rights violations and acts of terror; and

101 WHEREAS, on June 30, 2018, tens of thousands of people gathered in Paris at the Free Iran
102 gathering where they supported advocates for a democratic, secular, and non-nuclear
103 Republic of Iran and calls for the universal right to vote, free elections, and a market

104 economy and advocates for gender, religious, and ethnic equality, as well as a foreign policy
105 based on peaceful coexistence and a non-nuclear Iran; and

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

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

113 WHEREAS, Assadollah Assadi served as the third secretary of the Iranian embassy in
114 Austria; and

115 WHEREAS, instead of representing the interests of the Iranian people, the Iranian regime
116 has long used its Foreign Ministry and diplomatic representations abroad to orchestrate terror
117 plots and whitewash gross human rights violations in Iran; and

118 WHEREAS, on December 15, 2022, the Special Court for Combatting Corruption and
119 Organized Crime (SPAK) in Albania sentenced an Iranian national to ten years in prison on
120 terrorism related charges, including attempts to engage in espionage and the assassination
121 of Iranian dissidents in Albania; and

122 WHEREAS, Iran's malign activities in the Balkans pose a serious threat to United States'
123 national security interests; and

124 WHEREAS, on November 23, 2022, the Department of the Treasury announced additional
125 action on Iranian security forces, including Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)
126 forces, for their violent crackdown on antigovernment protests in Iran's Kurdistan Province
127 and surrounding areas; and

128 WHEREAS, according to the statement issued by the Department of State on
129 November 23, 2022, "The United States continues to support the Iranian people as they
130 protest nationwide."; and

131 WHEREAS, the General Assembly of Georgia recognizes Iran as the number one state
132 sponsor of terrorism worldwide and furthermore condemns any actions to allow the Iranian
133 regime to facilitate nuclear or other terroristic plots; and

134 WHEREAS, Qasem Soleimani was the world's most prolific terrorist, personally culpable
135 for the deaths of over 600 Americans and the maiming of thousands more, including the
136 torture and killing of tens of thousands of people across the Middle East; and

137 WHEREAS, Qasem Soleimani was personally sanctioned by the United Nations and the
138 European Union and was designated a terrorist by the United States of America; and

139 WHEREAS, Qasem Soleimani trained terrorist armies throughout the region, breeding death
140 and chaos in Afghanistan, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen, as well as in many other
141 nations; and

142 WHEREAS, Qasem Soleimani "was actively developing plans to attack American diplomats
143 and service members in Iraq and throughout the region," according to the United States
144 Department of Defense; and

145 WHEREAS, the strength and decisive action taken by former President Donald J. Trump in
146 eliminating Qasem Soleimani was a monumental achievement in the War on Terror, sending
147 a clear message that the United States of America will not allow her citizens to be attacked
148 by terrorists without retaliation; and

149 WHEREAS, the Iranian regime recently engaged in a terror plot in Jordan that killed three
150 American soldiers who were from Waycross, Savannah, and Carrollton, Georgia.

151 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
152 GEORGIA that the members of this body condemn past and present Iranian state sponsored
153 terrorist attacks against United States citizens and officials as well as Iranian dissidents,
154 including the Iranian regime's terror plot against the "Free Iran 2018—the Alternative"
155 gathering in Paris.

156 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body call on relevant United States
157 government agencies to work with European allies, including those in the Balkans where Iran
158 has expanded its presence, to hold Iran accountable for breaching diplomatic privileges as
159 well as on nations to prevent the malign activities of the Iranian regime's diplomatic missions
160 with the goal of closing them down and expelling its agents.

161 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body stand with the people of Iran
162 who are legitimately defending their rights for freedom against repression as well as
163 condemn the brutal killing of Iranian protestors by the regime.

164 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body recognize the rights of the
165 Iranian people and their struggle to establish a democratic, secular, and non-nuclear Republic
166 of Iran.

167 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
168 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
169 public and the press.