

Senate Resolution 800

By: Senators Jackson of the 41st, Davenport of the 44th, Au of the 48th, Halpern of the 39th, Anderson of the 43rd and others

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and calling for unfettered humanitarian access to the millions of people in the
2 Tigray region of Ethiopia facing weaponized starvation, calling for support for vulnerable
3 populations, including refugees, internally displaced persons, victims of gender-based sexual
4 violence, and individuals forcibly displaced by the genocidal war in Ethiopia; and for other
5 purposes.

6 WHEREAS, Tigray is a regional state located in the northern part of Ethiopia that represents
7 nearly 7 million people, with 2 million people internally displaced and over 60,000 Tigrayan
8 refugees in Sudan; and

9 WHEREAS, on November 4th, 2020, unelected Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Abiy Ahmed,
10 declared war on Tigray; and

11 WHEREAS, an influx of Tigrayan refugees resettled in the State of Georgia in the 1980s,
12 making it their home while fleeing the Ethiopian famine and civil war. Today, the families
13 of these Georgia constituents and millions more in Tigray, Ethiopia are living in famine-like
14 conditions and are at risk of perishing from weaponized starvation and the destruction of
15 Tigray's healthcare system; and

16 WHEREAS, the healthcare system in Tigray is rapidly collapsing, with a senior doctor at
17 Ayder Comprehensive Specialized Hospital, Tigray's largest hospital serving 300,000
18 patients annually, reporting to *Reuters* that about 80-90% of Tigray's hospitals and clinics
19 are not functioning; and

20 WHEREAS, the Tigray humanitarian crisis has received relatively little attention from the
21 international community, despite the extensive human suffering, sexual violence, and mass
22 displacement; and

23 WHEREAS, the Tigray people in Ethiopia have been without access to humanitarian aid for
24 16 months and counting due to a defacto blockade, telecommunications blackout, and
25 collapsed healthcare system, leaving millions without access to healthcare services and basic
26 medical supplies; and

27 WHEREAS, humanitarian needs include the condemnation of any act or failure to act that
28 obstructs or prevents humanitarian personnel from discharging their humanitarian functions,
29 or that entails such personnel being subjected to threats or the use of physical force that
30 frequently results in injury or death; and

31 WHEREAS, the immediate restoration of electricity, banking, telephone, and internet
32 services is needed to facilitate the restoration of healthcare infrastructure and equipment.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
34 recognize and call for unfettered humanitarian access to the millions of people in the Tigray
35 region of Ethiopia facing weaponized starvation; call for support for vulnerable populations,
36 including refugees, internally displaced persons, victims of gender-based sexual violence,
37 and individuals forcibly displaced by the genocidal war in Ethiopia; express grave concern

38 for the human suffering, sexual violence, and displacement impacting the people of Tigray;
39 condemn the ongoing violence and human rights abuses in Tigray; call for the opening of a
40 humanitarian corridor with unimpeded, sustained, and secured access to humanitarian aid;
41 stand in solidarity with the people of Tigray and with the Ethiopian immigrant and refugee
42 community around the world and, in particular, here in Georgia; and urge the federal
43 government of Ethiopia immediately and fully restore electricity, banking, telephone, and
44 internet service in the Tigray region.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
46 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Tigray
47 Community Atlanta.