

The House Committee on 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, on October 28, 2023, a statue devoted to Cyrus the Great, the first king of the Achaemenid Persian Empire, was unveiled at the Millennium Gate in Atlanta, Georgia, commemorating his respect for human rights and signifying the strong ties between the 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 House of Representatives recognizes Iran as the number one state sponsor  
132 of terrorism worldwide and furthermore condemns any actions to allow the Iranian regime  
133 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
152 the members of this body condemn past and present Iranian state sponsored terrorist attacks  
153 against United States citizens and officials as well as Iranian dissidents, including the Iranian  
154 regime's terror plot against the "Free Iran 2018—the Alternative" gathering in Paris.

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

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

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

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