

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 52nd Legislature (2010)

3 HOUSE

4 RESOLUTION 1090

By: Wesselhoft

5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution encouraging the United States Congress
8 to craft legislation which supports the democratic
9 aspirations of the Iranian people by enhancing their
10 ability to access the Internet and communications
11 services; and directing distribution.

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14 WHEREAS, the Government of Iran has engaged in a brutal
15 crackdown on the Iranian people in the aftermath of the disputed
16 presidential election of June 12, 2009, stifling freedom of speech,
17 press, and assembly and violating fundamental human rights; and

18 WHEREAS, on June 19, 2009, the United States House of
19 Representatives adopted House Resolution 560 by a vote of 405-1,
20 "expressing support for all Iranian citizens who struggle for
21 freedom, human rights, civil liberties, and the protection of the
22 rule of law"; and

23 WHEREAS, Iran's security forces, particularly the Iranian
24 Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and the Basij volunteer militia,

1 have been largely responsible for the violence and brutality
2 committed against the Iranian people in the recent unrest; and

3 WHEREAS, thousands of Iranian protesters have been arrested and
4 detained for taking part in public demonstrations, with many being
5 raped and tortured to extract false confessions to be used against
6 them and others as part of the government-run "show trials"; and

7 WHEREAS, on June 20, 2009, twenty-six year old Neda Agha Soltan
8 was shot and killed by a member of the Basij militia, symbolizing
9 for Iranians and people all over the world the government's brutal
10 crackdown against peaceful demonstrators; and

11 WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma respects and admires the Iranian
12 people as they take steps to peacefully express their voices,
13 opinions, and aspirations in protest of the Iranian government; and

14 WHEREAS, the Government of Iran is engaged in a range of
15 activities that interfere with and infringe upon the right of the
16 Iranian people to access independent news and information and to
17 exercise basic freedoms, in particular through electronic media; and

18 WHEREAS, on September 28, 2009, a consortium reportedly
19 controlled by Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps purchased a
20 controlling interest in the Iranian Telecommunications Company; and

21 WHEREAS, on November 14, 2009, the Government of Iran announced
22 the establishment of a special security force to police opposition
23 activities on the Internet; and

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1 WHEREAS, on numerous occasions, including most recently ahead of
2 student demonstrations on December 7, 2009, the Government of Iran
3 has restricted access to Internet and telecommunications networks in
4 order to limit popular dissent; and

5 WHEREAS, in the aftermath of the disputed June 2009 Iranian
6 presidential elections, the Iranian people utilized Twitter,
7 Facebook, and other personal communication technologies to organize
8 demonstrations and related activities; and

9 WHEREAS, citing the crucial role that Internet communications
10 technologies were playing in the postelection Iran, the Department
11 of State requested Twitter delay a planned maintenance so that
12 Iranians could continue use of the service without interruption; and

13 WHEREAS, the United States has a vital interest in working to
14 ensure that its policies do not unintentionally aid in the
15 repressive policies of the Government of Iran or hinder the Iranian
16 people's basic rights and freedoms; and

17 WHEREAS, current sanctions on Iran, if not modified pertaining
18 to Internet access, will continue to have the unintended effect of
19 stifling Iranians' access to the Internet and related Internet
20 technologies; and

21 WHEREAS, Microsoft and Google have ceased providing instant
22 messaging services to Iranians, citing United States economic
23 sanctions; and

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1 WHEREAS, in a September 2009 response regarding the suspension
2 of messaging services within Iran by Microsoft and Google, Director
3 of the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets
4 Control (OFAC), Adam Szubin, stated that, "Ensuring the flow and
5 access to information available through the Internet and similar
6 public sources is consistent with the policy interests of the United
7 States Government."

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
9 OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

10 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives respects the
11 universal values of freedom of speech, freedom of press, and the
12 freedom to assemble; supports the Iranian people seeking access to
13 news, electronic communication, and other forms of information;
14 encourages the development and provision of technologies and
15 services to the Iranian people that enable them to communicate with
16 each other and the outside world; encourages provision of software
17 and related services that allow private Iranian citizens to
18 circumvent online censorship and monitoring efforts imposed by the
19 Government of Iran; and encourages companies, organizations, and
20 individuals to enable large numbers of users to bypass censorship
21 and surveillance technologies, for the purposes of promoting
22 Iranians' unfettered access to the Internet, which is a civil
23 liberty that should be enjoyed by all people.

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1 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives encourages the United
2 States Congress to craft legislation which supports the democratic
3 aspirations of the Iranian people by enhancing their ability to
4 access the Internet and communication services.

5 THAT a copy of the House Resolution be distributed to members of
6 the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation.

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