

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 35

Congratulating the State of Qatar and its citizens for their commitment to democratic ideals and women's suffrage on the occasion of Qatar's historic elections of a central municipal council on March 8, 1999.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 23, 1999

Mr. GILMAN (for himself, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, and Mrs. KELLY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Congratulating the State of Qatar and its citizens for their commitment to democratic ideals and women's suffrage on the occasion of Qatar's historic elections of a central municipal council on March 8, 1999.

Whereas His Highness, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar, issued a decree creating a central municipal council, the first of its kind in Qatar;

Whereas on March 8, 1999, the people of the State of Qatar will hold direct elections for a central municipal council;

Whereas the central municipal council has been structured to have members from 29 election districts serving 4-year terms;

Whereas Qatari women were granted the right to participate in this historic first municipal election, both as candidates and voters;

Whereas this election demonstrates the strength and diversity of the State of Qatar's commitment to democratic expression;

Whereas the United States highly values democracy and women's rights;

Whereas March 8 is recognized as International Women's Day, and is an occasion to assess the progress of the advancement of women and girls throughout the world; and

Whereas this historic event of democratic elections and women's suffrage in the State of Qatar should be honored: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring), That the Congress—*

3            (1) commends His Highness, Sheikh Hamad  
4        bin Khalifa al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar, for his  
5        leadership and commitment to suffrage and the prin-  
6        ciples of democracy;

7            (2) congratulates the citizens of the State of  
8        Qatar as they celebrate the historic election for a  
9        central municipal council; and

10          (3) reaffirms that the United States is strongly  
11        committed to encouraging the suffrage of women,  
12        democratic ideals, and peaceful development  
13        throughout the Middle East.