

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 35

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 14, 1999

Received and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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 held 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,

- 1 democratic ideals, and peaceful development
- 2 throughout the Middle East.

Passed the House of Representatives April 13, 1999.

Attest: **JEFF TRANDAHL,**
Clerk.