

**Calendar No. 188**

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. CON. RES. 35**

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 14, 1999

Received and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

JUNE 30, 1999

Reported by Mr. HELMS, without amendment

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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 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.*

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