

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 414

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas Afghanistan has existed as a sovereign nation since 1747, maintaining its independence, neutrality, and dignity;

Whereas Afghanistan had maintained its own decisionmaking through a traditional process called a “Loya Jirgah”, or Grand Assembly, by selecting, respecting, and following the decisions of their leaders;

Whereas recently warlords, factional leaders, and foreign regimes have laid siege to Afghanistan, leaving the landscape littered with landmines, making the most fundamental activities dangerous;

Whereas in recent years, and especially since the Taliban came to power in 1996, Afghanistan has become a haven for terrorist activity, has produced most of the world's opium supply, and has become infamous for its human rights abuses, particularly abuses against women and children;

Whereas the former King of Afghanistan, Mohammed Zahir Shah, ruled the country peacefully for 40 years, and after years in exile retains his popularity and support; and

Whereas former King Mohammed Zahir Shah plans to convene an emergency “Loya Jirgah” to reestablish a stable government, with no desire to regain power or reestablish a monarchy, and the Department of State supports such ongoing efforts: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) supports democratic efforts that respect the
4 human and political rights of all ethnic and religious
5 groups in Afghanistan, including the effort to estab-
6 lish a “Loya Jirgah” process that would lead to the
7 people of Afghanistan determining their own destiny
8 through a democratic process and free and fair elec-
9 tions; and

10 (2) supports the continuing efforts of former
11 King Mohammed Zahir Shah and other responsible

1 parties searching for peace to convene a Loya
2 Jirgah—

3 (A) to reestablish a representative govern-
4 ment in Afghanistan that respects the rights of
5 all ethnic groups, including the right to govern
6 their own affairs through inclusive institution
7 building and a democratic process;

8 (B) to bring freedom, peace, and stability
9 to Afghanistan; and

10 (C) to end terrorist activities, illicit drug
11 production, and human rights abuses in Af-
12 ghanistan.

Passed the House of Representatives October 24,
2000.

Attest:

Clerk.

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Relating to the reestablishment of representative
government in Afghanistan.