

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1082

To provide support for democracy in Iran.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 19, 2003

Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. SANTORUM, and Mr. CAMPBELL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To provide support for democracy in Iran.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. IRAN DEMOCRACY ACT.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Iran Democracy Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress finds the following:

7 (1) There is currently not a democratic govern-
8 ment in Iran. Instead, Iran is an ideological dicta-
9 torship presided over by an unelected Supreme
10 Leader with limitless veto power, an unelected Expe-
11 diency Council, and Council of Guardians capable of

1 eviscerating any reforms, and a President elected
2 only after the Council disqualified 234 other can-
3 didates for being too liberal, reformist, or secular.

4 (2) The April 2003 report of the Department of
5 State states that Iran remained the most active
6 state sponsor of terrorism in 2002.

7 (3) That report also states that Iran continues
8 to provide funding, safehaven, training, and weapons
9 to known terrorist groups, notably Hizballah,
10 HAMAS, the Palestine Islamic Jihad, and the Pop-
11 ular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

12 (4) Human rights have failed to improve in
13 Iran under the pseudo-reformers. Torture, execu-
14 tions after unfair trials, and censorship of all media
15 remain rampant throughout the country. Stoning
16 and beheading are used as methods of punishment.

17 **SEC. 3. POLICY.**

18 It is the policy of the United States to—

19 (1) support transparent, full democracy in Iran;

20 (2) support an internationally-monitored ref-
21 erendum in Iran by which the Iranian people can
22 peacefully change the system of government in Iran;

23 (3) support the aspirations of the Iranian peo-
24 ple to live in freedom; and

1 (4) help the Iranian people achieve a free press
2 and build an open, democratic, and free society.

3 **SEC. 4. RADIO FARDA REFORM.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Broadcasting Board of Gov-
5 ernors shall—

6 (1) require the head of Radio Farda to develop
7 programming for Radio Farda, after consulting
8 with—

9 (A) Iranian-Americans and other Iranian
10 exiles who—

11 (i) support a referendum described in
12 section 3(2); and

13 (ii) oppose the current Government of
14 Iran; and

15 (B) the Middle East Partnership Initiative
16 (MEPI) at the Department of State and the
17 Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
18 (ECA) at the Department of State; and

19 (2) ensure that a significant percentage of the
20 programming on Radio Farda is devoted to dis-
21 cussing democratic change in Iran including an
22 internationally-monitored democratic referendum in
23 Iran as described in section 3(2).

24 (b) TRANSLATIONS OF WRITTEN AND VIDEO MATE-
25 RIALS FOR THE IRANIAN PEOPLE.—

1 (1) REQUIREMENT.—The MEPI and ECA shall
2 provide grants to appropriate entities to create and
3 maintain websites, translate and distribute books,
4 videos, documents, and other materials on democ-
5 racy, rule of law free market economics, and related
6 topics.

7 (2) CONSULTATION.—The MEPI and ECA
8 shall consult with nongovernmental entities and with
9 Iranian-American opposition groups that support the
10 holding of an internationally-monitored referendum
11 in Iran as described in section 3(2) to select mate-
12 rials to be translated into Persian.

13 (c) IRAN DEMOCRACY SUPPORT INITIATIVE.—

14 (1) AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other
15 provision of law, the MEPI and ECA are authorized
16 to award grants to an eligible entity for the purpose
17 of funding programs and activities to promote a
18 democratic referendum in Iran.

19 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The following persons
20 are eligible for grants under paragraph (1):

21 (A) A person who provides radio or tele-
22 vision broadcasting into Iran that includes pro-
23 gramming intended to promote an internation-
24 ally-monitored democratic referendum in Iran.

1 (B) A person who is working to promote
2 the holding of an internationally-monitored ref-
3 erendum in Iran, as described in section 3(2).

4 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Not-
5 withstanding any other provision of law, not less than 10
6 percent of the funds appropriated to the International
7 Broadcasting Operations account for fiscal year 2004
8 shall be made available to carry out the provisions of this
9 Act.

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