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State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Ahern, Rodne, Priest, Holmquist, Orcutt, Chandler, Kretz, Alexander, McDonald, McCune, Sump, Shabro, Serben, Schindler, Armstrong, Anderson, Ericksen, Talcott, Bailey, Kristiansen, DeBolt, Jarrett, Campbell, Newhouse, Pearson, Strow, Skinner, Nixon, Dunn, Clements, Curtis, Buck, Hankins, Roach, Hinkle, Crouse, Haler and Condotta

Read first time 02/15/2005. Referred to Committee on State Government Operations & Accountability.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO DONALD H. RUMSFELD,
5 SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, AND TO DR. CONDOLEEZZA RICE, SECRETARY OF STATE:

6 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
8 represent and petition as follows:

9 WHEREAS, In one of the grandest days for democracy in the history
10 of the world, millions of Iraqis risked death on Sunday, January 30,
11 2005, to vote for a 275-member Transitional National Assembly in a
12 free, democratic election, and although there were more than 100
13 attacks on polling stations by Islamic terrorists, the Iraqis voted;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, In their first free elections in more than 50 years,
16 millions of Iraqis turned out to vote with great enthusiasm and
17 determination, making way for a future of peace and freedom, and
18 election day brought unexpected hope and happiness to the streets of
19 Baghdad and cities and towns throughout the nation of Iraq; and

1 WHEREAS, In large numbers and at great personal risk, the Iraqi
2 people demonstrated their commitment to democracy making the election
3 an historic accomplishment; and

4 WHEREAS, Nine coalitions of political parties, 74 individual
5 political parties, and several independent candidates representing a
6 broad cross-section of Iraq participated in the election; and

7 WHEREAS, According to a report of the International Mission for
8 Iraqi Elections (IMIE), "Iraq's Electoral Commission had prepared and
9 put in place a framework for an election that generally meets
10 recognized standards in terms of election law, planning, and
11 preparations"; and

12 WHEREAS, The elections were transparent, with the Iraqi Election
13 Information Network (EIN), the umbrella nongovernmental organization
14 overseeing most of the domestic monitoring program, issuing a statement
15 praising the Iraqi people that concluded, "despite problems, which can
16 be considered modest under the circumstances, the election appears to
17 have been conducted without systematic flaws and in accordance with
18 basic international standards"; and

19 WHEREAS, Iraqi election organizers were delighted with their
20 success, celebrating the vote as a victory against insurgents and a
21 triumph of democracy with the chief electoral officer of the
22 Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq proudly announcing "Freedom
23 has won. We have conquered terrorism"; and

24 WHEREAS, On election day Iraqis appeared convinced that a new day
25 had arrived with voters dancing and singing and celebrating, thrusting
26 into the air their ink-stained fingers, a symbol of their initiation
27 into democracy, and expressing a jubilant sense of the undeniable
28 liberation from decades of tyranny; and

29 WHEREAS, Seeing thousands of Iraqis with their stains of honor
30 brings a sense of awe at the courage and commitment to freedom they
31 showed; and

32 WHEREAS, Optimism abounded as expectations were exceeded in the
33 Iraqi elections with election results expected by mid-February; and

34 WHEREAS, After the votes are tabulated and the winners declared,
35 the process of organizing the Transitional National Assembly, forming
36 a government, and drafting and ratifying a constitution that will be
37 the basis of a fully democratic Iraq begins; and

1 WHEREAS, The Transitional National Assembly will be seated, and
2 will elect, with a two-thirds vote of its members, a Presidency Council
3 consisting of a President and two Deputy Presidents; and

4 WHEREAS, The Presidency Council will appoint a Prime Minister and -
5 on his or her recommendation - cabinet ministers to run the Iraqi
6 government's various ministries; and

7 WHEREAS, The Prime Minister and his or her cabinet must receive a
8 vote of confidence by a simple majority of the Transitional National
9 Assembly before commencing work as a government; and

10 WHEREAS, The Transitional National Assembly will draft a new Iraqi
11 constitution which is to be presented to the Iraqi people for approval
12 in a national referendum in October 2005; and

13 WHEREAS, By the end of 2005, the Iraqi people will elect a new
14 national government under a new, permanent constitution; and

15 WHEREAS, One of the most striking trends in the election were the
16 numbers of women voters with the female proportion of voters was as
17 high as 65 percent in many parts of the country, a remarkable
18 achievement in a society where traditionally a woman would only vote
19 with her husband's permission and then according to his instructions;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Twenty-five percent of the seats in the new National
22 Assembly will be reserved for women, giving them a real stake in Iraq's
23 future; and

24 WHEREAS, The United States and the other Coalition forces will
25 continue to help the Iraqis provide security and will continue training
26 Iraqi security forces so this rising democracy can eventually take full
27 responsibility for its own future; and

28 WHEREAS, The Iraqis continue to face many difficult challenges, but
29 the United States is committed to supporting them in this effort; and

30 WHEREAS, The numerous statements that have been made by world
31 leaders supporting the elections and praising the courage of the Iraqi
32 people are most welcome and helpful; and

33 WHEREAS, Several Iraqi leaders have publicly stated they want their
34 political process to be inclusive of Iraq's complex mosaic of faiths
35 and peoples and the United States supports this process of
36 inclusiveness; and

37 WHEREAS, The Iraqi people proved that they care about the ordinary

1 and essential elements of democratic citizenship, such as the right to
2 free speech and a secret vote; and

3 WHEREAS, As if to make the point even more definitively, it was not
4 the suicide bombers, but the voters they killed at the polls, who were
5 buried as martyrs; and

6 WHEREAS, Iraqi Prime Minister, Iyad Allawi, has provided great
7 leadership in working with the United States and the Coalition Forces
8 in acting quickly and forcefully against the terrorists and ensuring
9 the success of the election saying, "We will do all we can to strike
10 against enemy forces aiming at harming our country, and we will not
11 stand by with our hands tied. The Iraqi people are determined to
12 establish a democratic government that provides freedom and equal
13 rights for all its citizens. We are prepared to fight and if necessary
14 die for the cause"; and

15 WHEREAS, On election day, President George W. Bush said, "Today the
16 people of Iraq have spoken to the world, and the world is hearing the
17 voice of freedom from the center of the Middle East";

18 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully request that
19 Congress and the President continue to take those measures necessary to
20 protect the liberty, independence, and security of the Iraqi people and
21 to promote freedom, democracy, and peace in the Middle East and around
22 the world.

23 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
24 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
25 States, and to Donald H. Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense, and to Dr.
26 Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State, the President of the United
27 States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each
28 member of Congress from the State of Washington.

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