

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 65

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

214th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 27, 2010

Sponsored by:

Senator LORETTA WEINBERG

District 37 (Bergen)

Senator DIANE B. ALLEN

District 7 (Burlington and Camden)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators A.R.Bucco, Beck, Buono, Ruiz, Gill, Cunningham and Turner

SYNOPSIS

Expresses opposition to Iran's election to Commission on the Status of Women.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** expressing opposition to Iran's election to
2 the United Nation's Commission on the Status of Women.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, On April 28, 2010, the Islamic Republic of Iran was
5 elected to a seat on the United Nation's Commission on the Status
6 of Women, an organization dedicated exclusively to "evaluate
7 progress, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate
8 concrete policies to promote gender equality and the advancement
9 of women worldwide;" Iran, along with ten other nations, were
10 elected by acclamation, meaning that an open vote was not required
11 by the member countries, including the United States; and
12 **WHEREAS**, The Islamic Republic's government, in contrast to the
13 commission's stated mission, has taken steps to deter women's
14 progress, and the regressive regime has systematically
15 discriminated against women in every sphere of society; mothers of
16 individuals who participated in the protests following the disputed
17 presidential election have been detained by the government, and
18 women who peacefully seek changes to laws that limit their social
19 and political freedoms are charged with threatening national
20 security, arrested, interrogated, beaten, and imprisoned; and
21 **WHEREAS**, Currently, 65% of university students in Iran are women,
22 but recently, the government instituted a 50-50 gender quota for
23 university placement in certain areas of study; the quota effectively
24 curtails the number of women accepted to university who pass
25 rigorous entrance examinations in favor of men who may be less
26 qualified; further limiting a woman's access to education,
27 legislation was introduced last year that would require a woman to
28 attend school in her hometown, even if test scores allowed her
29 entrance into better universities located in Tehran; and
30 **WHEREAS**, In almost all aspects of life, women's rights are restricted;
31 a woman is unable to choose her husband, cannot work without her
32 husband's consent, has no right to divorce or to the legal
33 guardianship of her children, and has no protection from violent
34 treatment in public places, if her style of dress does not meet the
35 standards of the morality police; additionally, child care centers
36 throughout the country are being closed, hampering a woman's
37 ability to work outside the home, and governmental programs to
38 promote family planning are slowly being eliminated; and
39 **WHEREAS**, These discriminatory practices reinforce the opinion held
40 by Iranian activists and critics of Iran's human rights record that the
41 Islamic Republic does not believe in gender equality, and its
42 membership on the Commission on the Status of Women could
43 have highly negative ramifications for an organization responsible
44 for monitoring the success countries throughout the world are
45 making in improving women's rights; and
46 **WHEREAS**, It is fitting and proper for the Senate to express its
47 opposition to Iran's election to the United Nation's Commission on
48 the Status of Women, and to urge every member of New Jersey's

SR65 WEINBERG, ALLEN

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1 Congressional delegation to voice its opposition to the United
2 Nation's decision to seat Iran on a commission whose stated
3 mission is to promote the rights of women throughout the world;
4 now, therefore;

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6 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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8 1. The Senate expresses its opposition to Iran's election to the
9 United Nation's Commission on the Status of Women, and urges
10 every member of New Jersey's Congressional delegation to voice its
11 opposition to the United Nation's decision to seat Iran on a
12 commission whose stated mission is to promote the rights of women
13 throughout the world.

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15 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the
16 President of the Senate and attested by the Secretary of the Senate
17 shall be transmitted to the President of the United States, the
18 Secretary-General of the United Nations, and every member of the
19 New Jersey Congressional delegation.

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STATEMENT

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24 This resolution expresses opposition to Iran's election to the
25 United Nation's Commission on the Status of Women, and urges
26 every member of New Jersey's Congressional delegation to voice its
27 opposition to the United Nation's decision to seat Iran on a
28 commission whose stated mission is to promote the rights of women
29 throughout the world.