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(Original Signature of Member)

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. _____

Calling for urgent international intervention on behalf of Iraqi civilians facing a dire humanitarian crisis and severe persecution in the Nineveh Plain region of Iraq.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. FORTENBERRY (for himself and [see ATTACHED LIST of cosponsors]) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Calling for urgent international intervention on behalf of Iraqi civilians facing a dire humanitarian crisis and severe persecution in the Nineveh Plain region of Iraq.

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reports as of January 2014 a total population of concern in Iraq numbering 1,522,855 people, including refugees and internally displaced persons, many of whom face grave deprivation and imminent threats to life, health, and safety;

Whereas recent extremist attacks on civilians have exacerbated the serious dislocations and pressures facing individuals within this population of concern, and have had

a particularly severe effect on ethnic and religious minority communities in the region, where civilians require immediate and urgent access to potable water, health care, fuel, electricity, and basic security;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council stated on July 22, 2014, “The members of the Security Council further recall that widespread or systematic attacks directed against any civilian populations because of their ethnic background, religious beliefs or faith may constitute a crime against humanity, for which those responsible must be held accountable,” and denounced the persecution of Iraqi Christians and other minorities, including Yizidis and Mandean;

Whereas reports indicate that some 150,000 Iraqi people in the immediate region of the Nineveh Plain, whose families have a history in the region dating back hundreds and even thousands of years, are now facing ethnic and religious cleansing, persecution, harassment, intimidation, extortion, displacement from their homes, and have been targeted for retribution by extremist elements affiliated with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS);

Whereas the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2165 (July 14, 2014), which can provide guidance for urgent action in Iraq, as it addresses similarly grave humanitarian needs in neighboring Syria;

Whereas Iraqi civilians in the Nineveh Plain region require immediate protection from armed militants and urgent humanitarian assistance; and

Whereas the grave humanitarian crisis in the Nineveh Plain region has serious potential implications for the broader

stability of Iraq and other nations in the region: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) deplores and condemns the religious bigotry,
4 vandalism and destruction of property, violent at-
5 tacks on and intimidation of innocent Iraqi civilians
6 by armed extremists and calls upon the Government
7 of Iraq to take immediate steps to protect the safety
8 and constitutional rights of all Iraqi citizens;

9 (2) calls on the President, Secretary of State,
10 and United States Permanent Representative to the
11 United Nations, working through the United Na-
12 tions Security Council with member states and the
13 Government of Iraq, to develop and implement an
14 immediate, coordinated, and sustained humanitarian
15 intervention to protect civilians, stabilize the security
16 situation in the Nineveh Plain region of Iraq, and
17 facilitate appropriate humanitarian assistance in the
18 Kurdistan region to help absorb the influx of refu-
19 gees;

20 (3) calls on the United States Permanent Rep-
21 resentative to the United Nations to work with the
22 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on
23 a sustained basis to document human rights abuses
24 against Iraqi civilians and develop an immediate

1 plan to facilitate safe humanitarian access to potable
2 water, health care, fuel, electricity, and basic secu-
3 rity for the most vulnerable civilian populations; and

4 (4) calls on the United Nations High Commis-
5 sioner for Refugees to coordinate with international
6 humanitarian organizations working in Iraq—

7 (A) to develop an effective strategy for re-
8 settlement assistance, that incorporates the es-
9 tablishment of micro-lending enterprises and
10 business startup loans for the displaced, and for
11 transitioning emergency relief to longer-term
12 economic development in beleaguered areas, in-
13 cluding ancestral villages in the Nineveh Plain
14 and Kurdistan, to help reestablish viable liveli-
15 hoods for displaced and persecuted persons in
16 their communities of origin; and

17 (B) to develop transparent, accountable
18 mechanisms to ensure that assistance reaches
19 the intended recipients and, in particular, to
20 prevent the diversion of assistance intended for
21 minority communities.