

116<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# S. RES. \_\_\_\_\_

Upholding the civil liberties and civil rights of Iranian Americans and  
condemning bigotry, violence, and discrimination.

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted the following resolution; which was referred to  
the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

## RESOLUTION

Upholding the civil liberties and civil rights of Iranian Americans and condemning bigotry, violence, and discrimination.

Whereas Iranian Americans serve as government officials, in the military, and in law enforcement, working to uphold the Constitution of the United States and to protect all people of the United States;

Whereas Iranian Americans uphold democratic values and believe in life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, the pillars of the United States;

Whereas Iranian Americans are vibrant, peaceful, and law-abiding people, including people of the Baha'i, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Zoroastrian faiths and people who are nonreligious;

Whereas Iranian Americans have contributed greatly to the social and economic fabric of the society of the United States;

Whereas, according to the Small Business Administration, Iranian Americans are among the immigrant groups with the highest rates of business ownership in the United States;

Whereas Iranian Americans are award-winning artists, scientists, and athletes;

Whereas the United States condemns acts of bigotry, violence, and discrimination;

Whereas, in January 2020, dozens of Iranian Americans were detained for several hours at the Peace Arch border crossing in the State of Washington based on their ethnicity or national origin;

Whereas a directive was published appearing to show that the Seattle Field Office of U.S. Customs and Border Protection directed border patrol agents to target Iranian, Lebanese, and Palestinian nationals born between 1961 and 2001 for additional vetting;

Whereas U.S. Customs and Border Protection initially denied that there was any directive ordering the detainment of Iranian Americans;

Whereas many Iranian Americans have been deeply shaken by the discriminatory treatment of Iranian Americans at the border, with some members of the Iranian-American community stating that they will not travel outside of the United States for fear of being unfairly targeted based on their national heritage;

Whereas the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of the Department of Homeland Security has opened an inves-

tigation into the detention of Iranian Americans at the border;

Whereas the United States Commission on Civil Rights, originally established by part I of the Civil Rights Act of 1957 (Public Law 85–315; 71 Stat. 634) and reestablished by the Civil Rights Commission Act of 1983 (42 U.S.C. 1975 et seq.), said that the Commission “expresses deep concern over the treatment of Iranians and Iranian Americans in airports, and calls on the Department of Homeland Security to take all necessary steps immediately to ensure equitable treatment of all people at America’s borders”;

Whereas, in a 2018 survey commissioned by the Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans, 49 percent of Iranian Americans said that they had personally experienced discrimination because of their ethnicity or national origin;

Whereas the 2019 hate crime statistics published by the Federal Bureau of Investigation reveal that the most common bias motivation of single-bias incidents is race, ethnicity, or ancestry bias, representing 59.6 percent of all single-bias incidents; and

Whereas Iranian Americans have long faced discrimination in times of turbulence in the relationship between the United States and Iran: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2               (1) condemns bigotry and acts of violence or  
3       discrimination against any person in the United  
4       States, including Iranian Americans;

1           (2) declares that government leaders and law  
2 enforcement personnel should ensure that the civil  
3 rights and civil liberties of all people of the United  
4 States, including Iranian Americans, are fully pro-  
5 tected;

6           (3) encourages local, State, and Federal elected  
7 officials to engage with Iranian Americans and en-  
8 courage Iranian Americans to share their experi-  
9 ences with their communities—

10                   (A) to end stereotypes;

11                   (B) to correct misconceptions; and

12                   (C) to convey instances of abuse against  
13 the Iranian-American community;

14           (4) calls upon local, State, and Federal law en-  
15 forcement authorities to investigate and vigorously  
16 prosecute crimes committed against all people of the  
17 United States, including Iranian Americans, that are  
18 based on actual or perceived race, color, religion, na-  
19 tional origin, or ethnicity;

20           (5) urges the Office for Civil Rights and Civil  
21 Liberties of the Department of Homeland Security  
22 to carry out a thorough and timely investigation into  
23 the detentions of Iranian Americans at the border;  
24 and

1           (6) calls on the Commissioner of U.S. Customs  
2           and Border Protection to immediately halt any or-  
3           ders that encourage discrimination on the basis of  
4           nationality or religion, including those targeting in-  
5           dividuals of Iranian heritage.