

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To provide a complete substitute.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—113th Cong., 1st Sess.

S. Res. 151

Urging the Government of Afghanistan to ensure transparent and credible presidential and provincial elections in April 2014 by adhering to internationally accepted democratic standards, establishing a transparent electoral process, and ensuring security for voters and candidates.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. CASEY

Viz:

1 Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the fol-
2 lowing: "That the Senate—

3 (1) affirms that the electoral process in Afghan-
4 istan should be determined and led by Afghan ac-
5 tors, with support from the international community,
6 and should not be subject to internal or external in-
7 terference;

8 (2) expresses its strong support for credible, in-
9 clusive, and transparent presidential and provincial
10 elections in April 2014;

1 (3) urges the Government of Afghanistan to
2 conduct the elections in full accordance with the
3 Constitution of Afghanistan, to include maintaining
4 the constitutionally-mandated allocation of seats for
5 women's parliamentary participation;

6 (4) honors the sacrifice of United States, coaliti-
7 tion, and Afghan service members who have been
8 killed or injured since October 2001 in defense of
9 the democratic rights of the Afghan people;

10 (5) recognizes the substantial investment made
11 by the United States taxpayers in support of sta-
12 bility, democracy, and the rule of law in Afghani-
13 stan, including efforts to end public corruption;

14 (6) recognizes the commitment of the Govern-
15 ment of Afghanistan to hold presidential elections in
16 2014 and the current president's commitment not to
17 seek a third term;

18 (7) recognizes that transparent and credible
19 elections will help safeguard the legitimacy of the
20 next Afghan government and will help prevent fu-
21 ture violence by groups that may be ready to contest
22 a process perceived as rigged or dishonest;

23 (8) recognizes that a democratically-elected and
24 legitimate government is important to ensuring the
25 long term stability of Afghanistan, as is the success-

1 ful training and fielding of the Afghan National Se-
2 curity Forces;

3 (9) urges the Government of Afghanistan to re-
4 spect and support the independence and impartiality
5 of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) and
6 the need for an independent and impartial elections
7 complaints mechanism with clear jurisdiction over
8 the final results, and urges all parties not to inter-
9 fere with their deliberations;

10 (10) urges the Parliament of Afghanistan to
11 pass legislation that will establish a consultative and
12 inclusive process for appointing elections commis-
13 sioners and allowing election disputes to be resolved
14 transparently and fairly;

15 (11) urges the IEC to adopt measures to better
16 mitigate fraud, include marginalized groups, and im-
17 prove electoral transparency of the polling and
18 counting process and communicate these measures
19 clearly and consistently to the people of Afghanistan;

20 (12) urges the Government of Afghanistan to
21 support a credible and effective electoral complaints
22 mechanism whereby its members are perceived as
23 impartial, it is given the ultimate authority on decid-
24 ing whether a ballot or candidate is disqualified, and
25 it has the time and resources to do its work;

1 (13) urges close and continuing communication
2 between the IEC and the Afghan National Security
3 Forces to identify and provide security for vulner-
4 able areas of the country during the election period;

5 (14) urges the Afghan National Security Forces
6 to make every necessary effort to ensure the safety
7 of voters and candidates;

8 (15) expresses its support for the full participa-
9 tion of Afghan civil society in the election process;

10 (16) urges the President of the United States
11 to ensure that all United States Government efforts
12 in Afghanistan are well-coordinated and are fully
13 consistent with the American taxpayers longstanding
14 commitment to stability, democracy, and the rule of
15 law in Afghanistan, including efforts to end public
16 corruption; and

17 (17) urges the Secretary of State to condition
18 financial, logistical, and political support for Af-
19 ghanistan's 2014 elections based on the implementa-
20 tion of reforms in Afghanistan including—

21 (A) increased efforts to encourage women's
22 participation in the electoral process, including
23 provisions to ensure their full access to and se-
24 curity at polling stations;

1 (B) the implementation of measures to
2 prevent fraudulent registration and manipula-
3 tion of the voting or counting processes, includ-
4 ing—

5 (i) establishment of processes to bet-
6 ter control ballots;

7 (ii) vetting of and training for election
8 officials; and

9 (iii) full accreditation of and access
10 for international and domestic election ob-
11 servers; and

12 (C) prompt passage of legislation through
13 the Parliament of Afghanistan that codifies the
14 authorities and independence of the IEC and an
15 independent and impartial election complaints
16 mechanism.