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2D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 41

Expressing the sense of Congress on the Peshmerga of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 16, 2016

Mrs. ERNST (for herself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

_____ (legislative day, _____), _____

Reported by Mr. CORKER, with amendments

[Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in *italic*]

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress on the Peshmerga of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

- 1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
- 2 *concurring),* That it is the sense of Congress that—
- 3 (1) the Peshmerga of the Kurdistan Region of
- 4 Iraq have been one of the most effective fighting
- 5 forces in the military campaign against the Islamic
- 6 State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS);

1 (2) the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham poses
2 an acute threat to the Iraqi people and territorial in-
3 tegrity of Iraq, including the Kurdistan Region of
4 Iraq, and the security and stability of the Middle
5 East;

6 (3) the severe budget shortfalls faced by both
7 the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional
8 Government are hindering the stability of Iraq and
9 have the potential to undermine long-term efforts to
10 bring about the sustainable defeat of the Islamic
11 State of Iraq and al-Sham;

12 (4) the \$415,000,000 pledged by the United
13 States Government to the Kurdish Peshmerga in
14 April of 2016, in coordination with the Government
15 of Iraq, in addition to the \$65,000,000 already pro-
16 vided from the Iraq Train and Equip Fund, should
17 remain a priority for the United States as part of
18 the continued support for Iraqi Security Forces, in-
19 cluding the Peshmerga, in the fight against the Is-
20 lamic State of Iraq and al-Sham;

21 (5) the Peshmerga should receive all weapons
22 and equipment that the United States, in coordina-
23 tion with the Government of Iraq, agrees to provide
24 in an expeditious and in a timely manner;

1 (5) *the Peshmerga should receive all weapons*
2 *and equipment that the United States, by, with, and*
3 *through the Government of Iraq, agrees to provide in*
4 *an expeditious and in a timely manner;*

5 (6) *it should be the policy of the United States*
6 *to support, within the framework of the Iraq Con-*
7 *stitution, Iraqi Security Forces, the Kurdish*
8 *Peshmerga in Iraq, Sunni tribal forces, and other*
9 *local security forces, including threatened ethnic and*
10 *religious minority groups, in the campaign against*
11 *the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham;*

12 (7) *ensuring the safe resettlement and reintegra-*
13 *tion of ethnic and religious minorities, including*
14 *Christians (among them Assyrian, Chaldean, Syriac,*
15 *Armenian, Evangelical, Antiochian and Greek Ortho-*
16 *dox, Maronite, Melkite, and Roman Catholic commu-*
17 *nities), Yezidis, Turkmen, Shi'a, Shabak, Sabaeen-*
18 *Mandeans, and Kaka'i, among others, including vic-*
19 *tims of genocide, into their homelands in Iraq, in-*
20 *cluding the Ninevah Plain, is a critical component to-*
21 *ward achieving a safe, secure, and sovereign Iraq;*

22 (6) (8) *the Peshmerga require equipment that*
23 *will allow them to defend themselves and their coali-*
24 *tion advisers against the increased use of vehicle-*

1 borne improvised explosive devices by the Islamic
2 State of Iraq and al-Sham;

3 ~~(7)~~ (9) the Peshmerga are vital partners in the
4 fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham;
5 and

6 ~~(8)~~ (10) in coordination with the Government of
7 Iraq, the United States will endeavor to increase as-
8 sistance to Iraqi Kurdish Forces to enhance their
9 combat medicine and logistical capabilities, to defend
10 internally displaced persons and refugees, and to de-
11 fend the Peshmerga and their coalition advisers.