

Calendar No. \_\_\_\_\_

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. CON. RES. 41

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

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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

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## 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.