

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. CON. RES. 14

Congratulating the state of Qatar and its citizens for their commitment to democratic ideals and women's suffrage on the occasion of Qatar's historic elections of a central municipal council on March 8, 1999.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 4, 1999

Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. TORRICELLI, and Mr. GRAMS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Congratulating the state of Qatar and its citizens for their commitment to democratic ideals and women's suffrage on the occasion of Qatar's historic elections of a central municipal council on March 8, 1999.

Whereas His Highness, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar, issued a decree creating a central municipal council, the first of its kind in Qatar;

Whereas on March 8, 1999, the people of Qatar will participate in direct elections for a central municipal council;

Whereas the central municipal council has been structured to have members from 29 election districts serving 4-year terms;

Whereas Qatari women have been granted the right to participate in this historic first municipal election, both as candidates and voters;

Whereas this election demonstrates the strength and diversity of Qatar's commitment to democratic expression;

Whereas the United States highly values democracy and women's rights;

Whereas March 8 is recognized as International Women's Day, and is an occasion to assess the progress of the advancement of women and girls throughout the world; and

Whereas this historic event of democratic elections and women's suffrage in Qatar should be honored: Now, therefore, be it

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

3            (1) commends His Highness, Sheikh Hamad  
4        bin Khalifa al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar, for his  
5        leadership and commitment to suffrage and the prin-  
6        ciples of democracy;

7            (2) congratulates the citizens of Qatar as they  
8        celebrate the historic election for a central municipal  
9        council; and

10           (3) reaffirms that the United States is strongly  
11        committed to encouraging the suffrage of women,  
12        democratic ideals, and peaceful development  
13        throughout the Middle East.

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