

**Senator Michael S. Kennedy** proposes the following substitute bill:

1                   **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE**  
2                   **TREATMENT OF THE UIGHUR ETHNIC COMMUNITY BY**  
3                   **THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT**

4                   2021 GENERAL SESSION

5                   STATE OF UTAH

6                   **Chief Sponsor: Brady Brammer**

7                   Senate Sponsor: Michael S. Kennedy

8                   Cosponsor: Candice B. Pierucci

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10 **LONG TITLE**

11 **General Description:**

12                   This concurrent resolution condemns the treatment of the Uighur community and Hong  
13 Kong by the Government of the People's Republic of China.

14 **Highlighted Provisions:**

15                   This resolution:

16                   ▶ condemns the treatment of the Uighur community and Hong Kong by the  
17 Government of the People's Republic of China; and

18                   ▶ calls upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to uphold its  
19 commitments to Hong Kong.

20 **Special Clauses:**

21                   None

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23 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

24                   WHEREAS, the Government of the People's Republic of China has a long history of



25 repressing Turkic Muslims, particularly Uighurs, in China's Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous  
26 Region, including mass surveillance and internment of over 1,000,000 Uighurs and other  
27 predominantly Turkic Muslim ethnic minorities;

28 WHEREAS, those detained in such facilities have described forced political  
29 indoctrination, torture, beatings, and food deprivation, as well as denial of religious, cultural,  
30 and linguistic freedoms, and confirmed that they were told by guards that the only way to  
31 secure release was to demonstrate sufficient political loyalty;

32 WHEREAS, poor conditions and lack of medical treatment at such facilities appear to  
33 have contributed to the deaths of some detainees, including the elderly and infirm;

34 WHEREAS, the Government of the People's Republic of China's actions against Turkic  
35 Muslims in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, whose population was approximately 13  
36 million at the time of the last census of the Government of the People's Republic of China in  
37 2010, are in contravention of international human rights laws, the International Convention on  
38 the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the Convention against Torture and  
39 Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, both of which the Government  
40 of the People's Republic of China has signed and ratified, and the Universal Declaration of  
41 Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which China has  
42 signed;

43 WHEREAS, in late May 2020, the Government of the People's Republic of China  
44 announced its intention to unilaterally and arbitrarily impose national security legislation on  
45 Hong Kong;

46 WHEREAS, this announcement was merely the latest salvo by the Government of the  
47 People's Republic of China in a series of actions that have increasingly denied autonomy and  
48 freedoms that the government promised to the people of Hong Kong under the 1984 Joint  
49 Declaration of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
50 and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Question of Hong Kong (Joint  
51 Declaration);

52 WHEREAS, under the national security legislation, the people of Hong Kong may face  
53 life in prison for what the Government of the People's Republic of China considers to be acts of  
54 secession or subversion of state power --- which may include acts like the widespread  
55 anti-government protests in 2019;

56 WHEREAS, under the national security legislation the right to trial by jury may be  
57 suspended and proceedings may be conducted in secret;

58 WHEREAS, the Government of the People's Republic of China has given itself broad  
59 power to initiate and control the prosecutions of the people of Hong Kong through the new  
60 Office for Safeguarding National Security; and

61 WHEREAS, the national security legislation allows foreigners to be expelled if the  
62 Government of the People's Republic of China merely suspects them of violating the law,  
63 potentially making it harder for journalists, human rights organizations, and other outside  
64 groups to hold the People's Republic of China accountable for its treatment of the people of  
65 Hong Kong:

66 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
67 Governor concurring therein, condemns the mass, arbitrary detention and treatment of Uighurs  
68 in China's Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region by the Government of the People's Republic  
69 of China;

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor  
71 concurring therein, condemns the violations by the Government of the People's Republic of  
72 China of the fundamental rights of the people of Hong Kong, as provided by the International  
73 Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and any encroachment upon the autonomy guaranteed  
74 to Hong Kong by the Basic Law and the Joint Declaration;

75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor  
76 concurring therein, calls upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to uphold its  
77 commitments to Hong Kong, including allowing the people of Hong Kong to govern Hong  
78 Kong with a high degree of autonomy and without undue interference;

79 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor  
80 concurring therein, calls upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to support the  
81 robust exercise by residents of Hong Kong of the rights to free speech, the press, and other  
82 fundamental freedoms, as provided by the Basic Law, the Joint Declaration, and the  
83 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

84 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor  
85 concurring therein, calls upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to support  
86 freedom from arbitrary or unlawful arrest, detention, or imprisonment for all Hong Kong

87 residents, as provided by the Basic Law, the Joint Declaration, and the International Covenant  
88 on Civil and Political Rights; and

89 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor  
90 concurring therein, supports freedoms for religious worship and freedoms of ethnic minorities  
91 to live free from fear of oppression and will seek to support these values around the world  
92 while working to improve their own record at home.