

Introduced by Senators Leno, Corbett, Correa, De León, Galgiani, Hancock, Hill, Jackson, Lara, Lieu, Liu, Roth, Steinberg, and Wolk

August 12, 2013

Senate Resolution No. 18—Relative to the government of Russia.

1 WHEREAS, The government of Russia has recently undertaken
2 an aggressive course of action on both the local and national level
3 to pass laws targeting the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender
4 (LGBT) community; and

5 WHEREAS, The government of Russia has enacted a law
6 banning the adoption of Russian-born children by LGBT couples
7 and also by any couple or single parent living in a country where
8 marriage equality exists in any form; and

9 WHEREAS, The government of Russia has enacted a law
10 banning “propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations” that
11 penalizes LGBT-affirming and positive messages or actions,
12 including, but not limited to, messages on the Internet, and violates
13 the fundamental human rights of freedom of speech, assembly,
14 expression, and equality, all under the guise of protecting children;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The Russian Federation is the host of the XXII
17 Olympic Winter Games; and

18 WHEREAS, The government of Russia has enacted a vaguely
19 worded law allowing police officers to arrest tourists and foreign
20 nationals who violate the new “gay propaganda” law and detain
21 them for up to 15 days and expel them from Russia; and

22 WHEREAS, Representatives of the Russian government have
23 indicated they intend to enforce the new law against visitors and
24 athletes during the XXII Olympic Winter Games; and

1 WHEREAS, These laws have already resulted in a significant
2 increase in homophobia and targeted violence against LGBT people
3 and caused millions of Russians to live in fear that their
4 government will target them or remove their children from their
5 homes simply because of who they are; and

6 WHEREAS, History repeatedly instructs us that despotic rulers
7 who scapegoat classes of their own citizens and then legislate their
8 status as outlaws often move on to initiate genocide against those
9 same people, especially if the rest of the world remains silent; and

10 WHEREAS, Hillary Clinton, as the 67th United States Secretary
11 of State, stated in a December 2011 Human Rights Day address
12 to the United Nations, “Gay rights are human rights, and human
13 rights are gay rights”; and

14 WHEREAS, Equity shareholders in publicly traded companies
15 can be instrumental in encouraging responsible corporate
16 citizenship, and the California Public Employees’ Retirement
17 System and the California State Teachers’ Retirement System have
18 joined 1,200 other institutional investors from 50 countries who
19 manage more than \$34 trillion in assets to develop and become a
20 signatory to the Principles for Responsible Investment; and

21 WHEREAS, Californians expect companies with equity
22 securities held in a public employee retirement fund’s portfolio to
23 be conducted with integrity and a view toward supporting and
24 protecting internationally proclaimed human rights; and

25 WHEREAS, California’s history of leadership in socially
26 responsible public investing serves as a model followed by other
27 governments and includes divesting in shares of tobacco and gun
28 companies and banning investments in countries that violate
29 ethical, labor, and human rights standards, such as South Africa,
30 Iran, and Sudan; now, therefore, be it

31 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California,* That the Senate
32 condemns the Russian government’s attacks on the LGBT
33 community and laws targeting LGBT people and their supporters,
34 including tourists, athletes, and other participants in the XXII
35 Olympic Winter Games; and be it further

36 *Resolved,* That the Senate deplores and condemns all laws and
37 acts of violence, in both word and in action, that use the
38 government as an instrument of discrimination, persecution, and
39 legislation against the LGBT community and its supporters; and
40 be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate calls upon the President, the United
2 States Congress, and the United States Department of State to
3 increase efforts to encourage the decriminalization of
4 homosexuality in every country and to use all means possible to
5 increase the number of countries supporting decriminalization,
6 including, but not limited to, the United Nations, trade and
7 diplomatic relationships, and the implementation of international
8 treaties and declarations on human rights; and be it further

9 *Resolved*, That the Senate urges the International Olympic
10 Committee to seek written agreement from the Russian government
11 that the new “gay propaganda” law will not affect those attending,
12 participating, or competing in the XXII Olympic Winter Games;
13 and be it further

14 *Resolved*, That the Senate urges NBCUniversal, as broadcaster
15 of the XXII Olympic Winter Games in the United States, to
16 increase awareness of Russia’s homophobic laws and the threat
17 they pose to participating athletes and visitors by discussing them
18 on air at every opportunity, including during the opening and
19 closing ceremonies when millions of Americans will be watching;
20 and be it further

21 *Resolved*, That the Senate strongly encourages the California
22 Public Employees’ Retirement System and the California State
23 Teachers’ Retirement System, whenever feasible and consistent
24 with their fiduciary responsibilities, to cease making direct
25 investments in Russia and to encourage companies in which
26 employee retirement funds are invested and that are doing business
27 in Russia not to take actions that promote or otherwise enable
28 human rights violations in Russia; and be it further

29 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
30 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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