

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 41**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Kim**  
**(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Chang)**  
(Principal coauthor: Senator Nguyen)  
**(Coauthor: Assembly Member Chu)**

May 26, 2016

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Assembly Joint Resolution No. 41—Relative to Vietnam.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 41, as introduced, Kim. Vietnam: arms embargo.

This measure would urge the United States Congress to pass a law to reinstate the arms embargo against Vietnam until such time that human rights in that country significantly improve.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The Socialist Republic of Vietnam has run a  
2 repressive one-party state; and

3 WHEREAS, The Communist government of the Socialist  
4 Republic of Vietnam controls all public institutions and uses them  
5 to maintain power, including censoring the media and the Internet;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, The Socialist Republic of Vietnam does not hold  
8 free elections and permits child labor, human trafficking, forced  
9 disappearances, unlawful deprivation of life, and land restitution  
10 to continue; and

11 WHEREAS, The United States government and the American  
12 people have a commitment to assisting the citizens of Vietnam

1 who continue to face persecution and threats from the Communist  
2 government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; and

3 WHEREAS, Widespread human rights abuses continue to occur  
4 in Vietnam, precluding citizens' rights to freedom of expression,  
5 freedom of assembly, and freedom of association; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2015, Human Rights Watch recorded at least  
7 45 cases of assault against dissidents and human rights defenders,  
8 including beatings, threats, and property destruction, and is further  
9 aware of over 100 political prisoners, in addition to dissidents held  
10 under house arrest; and

11 WHEREAS, The Socialist Republic of Vietnam broke its written  
12 promise to not prosecute recent Vietnamese boat refugees upon  
13 their return to Vietnam. Instead they were charged, tried, convicted,  
14 and jailed for leaving the country, a right that is protected by United  
15 Nations' international law; and

16 WHEREAS, The United States government has imposed an  
17 embargo on the sale of lethal weapons to Vietnam since the end  
18 of the Vietnam War in 1975; and

19 WHEREAS, The Obama Administration lifted that ban on May  
20 23, 2016, without the effort of releasing the remaining political  
21 prisoners or any indication of improved human rights protections  
22 for the citizens of Vietnam; now, therefore, be it

23 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*  
24 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature urges the Congress of the  
25 United States to pass a law to reinstate the arms embargo against  
26 Vietnam until such time that the human rights situation  
27 significantly improves, including the release of all political  
28 dissidents and boat refugees currently in prison and under house  
29 arrest; and be it further

30 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
31 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.