

Introduced by Senator Nguyen

February 11, 2016

Senate Resolution No. 59—Relative to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

1 WHEREAS, On February 15 and 16, 2016, President Obama
2 will host the government leaders from the Association of Southeast
3 Asian Nations (ASEAN) for a summit in the city of Rancho
4 Mirage, California; and

5 WHEREAS, International summits have historically provided
6 venues for diplomatic discussions with government leaders on
7 various policies, from economic prosperity and cultural tolerance,
8 to the worldwide protection of human rights and intellectual
9 property; and

10 WHEREAS, All members of ASEAN are currently members
11 of the General Assembly of the United Nations that penned The
12 Universal Declaration on Human Rights in 1948, which proclaimed
13 that every individual and every organ of society shall strive to
14 promote respect for rights and freedoms of men and women; and

15 WHEREAS, The preamble of the ASEAN Charter signed in
16 Singapore on November 20, 2007, acknowledges its expanded
17 membership's commitment to adhere "to the principles of
18 democracy, the rule of law and good governance, respect for and
19 protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms"; and

20 WHEREAS, The Human Rights Watch, in a report prepared for
21 the February summit, has declared that most of ASEAN's 10
22 members have extraordinarily poor human rights records,
23 including, but not limited to, restrictions on civil society, failures
24 on women's rights, the political use of courts, high-level corruption,

1 and lack of basic freedoms such as expression and peaceful
2 assembly; and

3 WHEREAS, The Human Rights Watch report dually urges
4 President Obama to raise concerns involving political prisoners in
5 Vietnam, politically motivated prosecutions in Malaysia, political
6 repression in Cambodia, and the suppression of free expression in
7 Thailand; and

8 WHEREAS, The California State Legislature previously passed
9 Senate Joint Resolution 5 which urged the President of the United
10 States and the United States Congress to reauthorize the
11 Humanitarian Resettlement Program and the Orderly Departure
12 Program to allow disabled veterans of the South Vietnamese Army
13 and their families currently living in the Socialist Republic of
14 Vietnam to apply to enter the United States, citing human rights
15 concerns that persist in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; now,
16 therefore, be it

17 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That the
18 Legislature respectfully urges the President of the United States
19 to focus on the ongoing human rights injustices that continue to
20 occur in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and in other Southeast
21 Asian nations when the President hosts the leaders of the
22 Association of Southeast Asian Nations at the Sunnylands Estate
23 in Rancho Mirage, California on February 15 and 16, 2016; and
24 be it further

25 *Resolved*, That the Legislature respectfully urges President
26 Obama to discuss the implementation of Senate Joint Resolution
27 5 with the government leader of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam,
28 regarding the reauthorization of the Humanitarian Resettlement
29 Program and the Orderly Departure Program to allow disabled
30 veterans of the South Vietnamese Army and their families currently
31 living in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to apply to enter the
32 United States; and be it further

33 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
34 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
35 States, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to the Speaker of the
36 House of Representatives, to each Senator and Representative from
37 California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author
38 for appropriate distribution.

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