

**Introduced by Senator Nguyen**

February 11, 2016

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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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