

State of Maine

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Eight

JOINT RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE THE PEACE PROCESS, A RETURN TO CIVIL SOCIETY AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN CHECHNYA AND THE NORTHERN CAUCASUS REGION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

WHEREAS, two profoundly violent civil wars have taken place in Chechnya, Ingushetia and the Northern Caucasus Region of the Russian Federation since the collapse of the Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS, these wars, which took place from 1994 to 1996 and from 1999 to 2007, have resulted in the death of up to 250,000 people, which is almost one-quarter of the population of Chechnya, and the dislocation of up to 500,000 people, or almost half the population of Chechnya; and

WHEREAS, the most violent aggression has fallen on innocent families and refugees in Chechnya, Ingushetia and the Northern Caucasus Region through the activities of the Russian military and security forces, and ethnic discrimination is suffered by Chechen, Ingush and other Caucasus peoples throughout the Russian Federation; and

WHEREAS, various citizens, scholars, students and residents in the State of Maine are involved in civic, cultural, social and business exchanges with Chechnya, Ingushetia and the Northern Caucasus Region in the Russian Federation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-third Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to urge the government of the Russian Federation to honestly and transparently engage in creating a just peace in Chechnya, Ingushetia and the Northern Caucasus Region; and be it further

RESOLVED: That we also urge the encouragement of a return to democratically elected officials and institutions in Chechnya, Ingushetia and the Northern Caucasus Region, and we urge the encouragement of civic and social links between Chechnya, Ingushetia and the Northern Caucasus Region, the Russian Federation and the rest of the world.

House of Representatives

Read and Adopted
April 16, 2008
Sent for Concurrence
Ordered Sent Forthwith

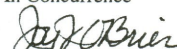

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk of the House

H.P. 1684
ATTEST:



GLENN CUMMINGS
Speaker of the House of Representatives

In Senate Chamber

Under Suspension of the Rules
Read and Adopted
April 16, 2008
In Concurrence


JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

ATTEST:


BETH EDMONDS
President of the Senate

Sponsored by: Rep. Elaine Makas of Lewiston

Cosponsored by: Sen. Dennis S. Damon of Hancock
Rep. Herbert Adams of Portland
Rep. Christopher R. Barstow of Gorham
Rep. Paulette G. Beaudoin of Biddeford
Rep. Richard D. Blanchard of Old Town
Rep. Andrea M. Boland of Sanford
Rep. Mark E. Bryant of Windham
Rep. Richard J. Burns of Berwick
Rep. Marilyn E. Canavan of Waterville
Rep. Timothy A. Carter of Bethel
Rep. Alan M. Casavant of Biddeford
Rep. Gary A. Connor of Kennebunk
Rep. Margaret M. Craven of Lewiston
Rep. Patsy Garside Crockett of Augusta
Rep. Michael Edward Dunn of Bangor
Rep. Sean Faircloth of Bangor
Rep. Charles William Harlow of Portland

Rep. Dawn Hill of York
Rep. Patricia R. Jones of Mount Vernon
Rep. Theodore Koffman of Bar Harbor
Rep. Jacqueline A. Lundeen of Mars Hill
Rep. W. Bruce MacDonald of Boothbay
Rep. Edward J. Mazurek of Rockland
Rep. David Miramant of Camden
Rep. Leila J. Percy of Phippsburg
Rep. Donald E. Pilon of Saco
Rep. Anne M. Rand of Portland
Rep. Kimberly E. W. Silsby of Augusta
Rep. Pamela Jabar Trinward of Waterville
Rep. John L. Tuttle, Jr. of Sanford
Rep. Walter A. Wheeler, Sr. of Kittery
Sen. Margaret Rotundo of Androscoggin
Sen. Ethan Strimling of Cumberland