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SB32-07/08: Supporting the Exploration of a Program Allowing Academically Qualified Iraqi Translators to Attend The University of Montana as Students

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Exhibit 7

Resolution Supporting the Exploration of a Program Allowing Academically Qualified Iraqi Translators to Attend The University of Montana as Students

~~Whereas, many Americans have diverse views on American foreign policy in Iraq and may agree or disagree with the United States entering Iraq;~~

Whereas, it is important to remember that the translators who have served with the United States military have done so in order to help save and protect innocent civilians and serve selflessly to bring peace to this war-torn country;

Whereas, many Iraqis who have worked in essential positions for the United States Government in Iraq have been killed or injured in reprisals for their support of the American effort, and others associated with the United States have fled Iraq in fear of being killed or injured;

Whereas, the U. S. Government has a translator visa policy under section 1059 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, Public Law 109-163, making up to 50 Iraqi and Afghan translators working for the U.S. military eligible for special immigrant visas (SIVs) each fiscal year (FY). Public Law 110-36, which President Bush signed into law on June 15, 2007, amends section 1059 by expanding the total number of beneficiaries to 500 a year for FY2007 and FY2008 only. In FY2009, the number of visas available for this category will revert to 50 annually, allowing for some of these translators to receive visas to the United States of America;

~~Whereas, these translators continue to serve as ambassadors from the Iraqi people to the American people and from the American to the Iraqi people;~~

Whereas, many of these translators ~~having initial educations~~ may not receive opportunities to advance their educations;

Whereas, these translators will be an integral part of the future of the health and stability of Iraq, as ~~some of them~~ *they* will be teachers, professors, politicians, clerics, doctors, and lawyers;

Whereas, it is in the interests of the Iraqi and American people to have ~~culture~~ *cultural* and educational opportunities and exchanges to build understanding and strengthen our historic and recent ties;

Whereas, the following suggestion of policy ~~to follow~~ will be formally introduced to Dr. Mehrdad Kia, the Director of the Central and Southwest Asian Studies Program, and has been conceptually introduced to the members of Montana's national congressional delegation.

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved that the Associated Students of The University of Montana support ~~the exploration~~ of a program which would allow academically qualified *Iraqi or Afghan* translators to attend The University of Montana as students;

Let It Be Further Resolved that the Associated Students of The University of Montana ~~wish to express~~ their support of this project to President Dennison. ~~who will conceptually be introduced to this proposal during a meeting on Friday morning.~~

Authored by: Senator Kevin Nalty

Parad
8/5/08
Kevin Nalty
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Cecil