

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 596

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the Hong Kong national security law proposed by the Government of the People's Republic of China would violate the obligations of that government under the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration and the Hong Kong Basic Law and calling upon all free nations of the world to stand with the people of Hong Kong.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 21, 2020

Mr. HAWLEY (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BOOZMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

JUNE 25, 2020

Committee discharged; considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the Hong Kong national security law proposed by the Government of the People's Republic of China would violate the obligations of that government under the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration and the Hong Kong Basic Law and calling upon all free nations of the world to stand with the people of Hong Kong.

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has proposed a new national security law for Hong Kong

that would ban secession, subversion of state power, and foreign interference, as defined by the Government of the People's Republic of China;

Whereas, if the new national security law is passed, the Government of the People's Republic of China is expected to use this law to justify and facilitate an expanded crackdown against peaceful protests and other forms of non-violent protest by the people of Hong Kong;

Whereas this proposed law constitutes a significant escalation in the campaign by the Government of the People's Republic of China and its proxies in Hong Kong to erase the basic liberties and human rights promised to the people of Hong Kong under the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration and the Hong Kong Basic Law;

Whereas the announcement by the Government of the People's Republic of China of its intent to pass this new national security law reflects that government's fundamental opposition not only to the basic rights and liberties of free persons championed by the people of Hong Kong and the United States, but also to upholding its obligations under international law; and

Whereas the efforts by the Government of the People's Republic of China to silence peaceful protestors in Hong Kong are part and parcel of a broader hegemonic vision that would see the Government of the People's Republic of China impose its will upon all free people of Asia and beyond: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—
- 2 (1) the Hong Kong national security law pro-
- 3 posed by the Government of the People's Republic of

1 China would violate the legal obligations of that gov-
2 ernment under—

3 (A) the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declara-
4 tion, which guarantees for 50 years the protec-
5 tion of the basic rights and freedoms of the
6 people of Hong Kong, including those of speech,
7 press, assembly, association, travel, movement,
8 correspondence, and strike; and

9 (B) the Hong Kong Basic Law, which re-
10 serves the authority for enacting laws prohib-
11 iting treason, secession, sedition, subversion,
12 and foreign interference to the Government of
13 the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region;
14 and

15 (2) the United States Government should use
16 all diplomatic means available, including targeted
17 sanctions, to—

18 (A) dissuade the Government of the Peo-
19 ple's Republic of China from passing the pro-
20 posed Hong Kong national security law;

21 (B) compel the Government of the People's
22 Republic of China to rescind the proposed Hong
23 Kong national security law, if it is passed; and

24 (C) rally all free nations to stand with the
25 people of Hong Kong against increasingly se-

1 vere violations by the Government of the Peo-
2 ple's Republic of China of the rights and lib-
3 erties guaranteed to them under the 1984 Sino-
4 British Joint Declaration and the Hong Kong
5 Basic Law.

