Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (which it ratified on August 29, 1968), and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (both of which it ratified on June 24, 1975);

Whereas the Government of Iran has routinely violated the human rights of its citizens, including—
(1) torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, including flogging, and amputations;
(2) high incidence and increase in the rate of executions carried out in the absence of internationally recognized safeguards, including public executions and executions of juvenile offenders;
(3) stoning as a method of execution and persons in prison who continue to face sentences of execution by stoning;
(4) arrests, violent repression, and sentencing of women exercising their right to peaceful assembly, a campaign of intimidation against women’s rights defenders, and continuing discrimination against women and girls;
(5) increasing discrimination and other human rights violations against persons belonging to religious, ethnic, linguistic, or other minorities;
(6) ongoing, systematic, and serious restrictions of peaceful assembly and association and freedom of opinion and expression, including the continuing closures of media outlets, arrests of journalists, and the censorship of expression in online forums such as blogs and websites; and
(7) severe limitations and restrictions on freedom of religion and belief, including arbitrary arrest, indefinite detention, and lengthy jail sentences for those exercising their right to freedom of religion or belief, including a provision in the proposed draft penal code which would make a mandatory death sentence for apostasy, the abandoning of one’s faith;

Whereas, since March 9, 2007, Robert Levinson, a graduate student at California State University, Northridge, for her peacefullone’s faith; and

Whereas, in early October 2009, the judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran sentenced four individuals to death after the disputed presidential election, without providing the individuals adequate access to legal representation during their trials;

Whereas the Supreme Leader of Iran, Ali Khamenei, issued a statement on October 29, 2009, effectivly criminalizing dissent regarding the national election in the Islamic Republic of Iran this past June, further restricting the right to freedom of expression;

Whereas the Government of Iran does not allow independent nongovernmental associations and labor unions to perform their role in peacefully defending the rights of all persons;

Whereas, on November 4, 2009, security forces in the Islamic Republic of Iran used brutal force against peaceful protesters, resulting in a number of injuries and arrests, in violation of international standards regarding the proportionate use of force against peaceful protests;

Whereas the Government of Iran expelled students from universities, particularly over the past two years, in reprisal for their being critical of the government;

Whereas the Government of Iran has imposed restrictions on the travel of individuals, including journalists and families, following the recent elections, in reprisal for their political views or their criticism of the government, such as those presently imposed on human rights lawyer Abdolfattah Soltani, human rights activist Emad Baghi, film director Jafar Panahi, and actress Fatemeh Motamed Aryan; and

Whereas, in November 2009, the American Journalists in Iran expelled students from universities, particularly over the past two years, in reprisal for their being critical of the government;

Whereas the Government of Iran has imposed restrictions on the travel of individuals, including journalists and families, following the recent elections, in reprisal for their political views or their criticism of the government, such as those presently imposed on human rights lawyer Abdolfattah Soltani, human rights activist Emad Baghi, film director Jafar Panahi, and actress Fatemeh Motamed Aryan; and

Whereas, according to Amnesty International, at least 346 people were known to have been executed in 2008, including eight juvenile offenders and two men who were executed by stoning; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) calls for authorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran to respect the rights of the people of Iran to freedom of speech, press, religion, association, and assembly;
(2) condemns the Government of Iran’s human rights violations and calls on the Government of Iran to hold those responsible accountable for their actions;
(3) reminds the Government of Iran of its constitutional and international obligations under its 1979 Constitution and four international covenants to which it is a signatory;
(4) calls for the immediate release from detention of all persons, including political prisoners, human rights defenders, journalists, and all others held for peacefully exercising their right to expression, assembly, and association;
(5) urges the Government of Iran to ensure that anyone placed on trial for committing acts of violence or other clearly criminal acts benefits from all of his or her rights to a fair trial, including proceedings that are open to the public, the right to be represented by independent counsel, and guarantees that no statements shall be admitted into evidence that have been obtained through torture, inhumane, or degrading treatment;
(6) calls for the Government of Iran to ensure that those sentenced to death and held in solitary confinement, with little or no access to their lawyers and families, many of whom showed signs of torture and drugging;

ORDER FOR PRINTING OF AMENDMENT NO. 2786

Mr. KAUFMAN. I ask unanimous consent that amendment No. 2786 be printed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and in consultation with the ranking member of the Senate Committee on Finance, pursuant to Public Law 103–296, appoints Jagadeesh Gokhale, of Maryland, vice Sylvester Schieber, of Michigan, as a member of the Social Security Advisory Board.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2009

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:45 a.m. tomorrow, Friday, November 20, that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate resume debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 3590, as provided for under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, there will be no rollcall votes during tomorrow’s session of the Senate. The next vote will occur at 8 p.m. on Saturday, November 21. That vote will be on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 3590.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KAUFMAN. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order, following the remarks of Senators BROWNBACK and HATCH.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.
The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I thank my colleague.