

State of Vermont

Senate Chamber



Montpelier, Vermont

Senate Resolution

By Senator White, Baruth, Campbell, Doyle, Hartwell, Lyons, and Snelling,

S.R. 9. Senate resolution relating to requesting that the President and Congress of the United States recognize the independent Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

Whereas, the people of Vermont, dating back to the era of the independent Commonwealth of Vermont, have recognized the universal principle of self-determination, as underscored in the Constitution of the State of Vermont, which states, "That government is, or ought to be, instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security of the people, nation, or community," and

Whereas, the Constitution of the State of Vermont reaffirms that all power is originally inherent in and consequently derived from the people, and defends the "indubitable, unalienable, and inalienable right, to reform or alter government, in such manner as shall be, by that community, judged most conducive to the public weal," and

Whereas, the people of Nagorno Karabakh, during seven decades of Soviet dictatorship, sought for themselves and all those behind the Iron Curtain the same basic rights enjoyed by the people of Vermont and all the citizens of United States, namely the freedom to live in peace and security in their homeland, under a democratic government of their own choosing, and

Whereas, the citizens of Nagorno Karabakh, many of whom identify ethnically as Armenian but were placed under Azerbaijani control by Joseph Stalin, followed in the footsteps of Vermont's founding fathers and, in the American spirit of democratic self-governance, on September 2, 1991, declared the independence of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, and

Whereas, for more than two decades, the Nagorno Karabakh Republic has built a democratic, free-market-oriented society that has held Parliamentary and Presidential elections, and

Whereas, the Nagorno Karabakh Republic has been a responsible partner in international efforts toward a fair and lasting regional peace, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate:

That the Senate of the State of Vermont requests that the President and Congress of the United States recognize the independent Nagorno Karabakh Republic and reaffirm U.S. support for the progress of its people and government in building a democratic, free-market-oriented society committed to freedom, security, and peace for its citizens and for all the peoples of the region, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to send a copy of this resolution to President Obama and to the Vermont Congressional Delegation.