

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133

BYRON RUSHING

Room 167

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9TH SUFFOLK DISTRICT

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July 21, 1986

The Honorable George W. Crockett, Jr.
U. S. House of Representatives
1531 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Crockett:

Enclosed is a copy of (Massachusetts) House Bill 5740, a resolution based on your H. Res. 373. Our resolution passed the Massachusetts House of Representatives on Friday, July 11, 1986. We are now working on State Senate passage.

I want to thank you for your leadership in the National Lawyers Campaign to free Nelson Mandela and other South African political prisoners. If there is anything else we can do in the Massachusetts Legislature, please let me know. I am taking the lead on this for the Massachusetts Legislative Black Caucus.

Also, please send me a list of the members of Congress who are co-sponsors of H. Res. 373.

Thank you.

Yours truly,


BYRON RUSHING
State Representative

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cc: Representative Royal L. Bolling, Jr.
Representative Gloria Fox
Representative Sandra Graham
Representative Raymond Jordan
Senator Royal L. Bolling

HOUSE No. 5740

By Mr. Rushing of Boston, petition of Byron Rushing and other members of the House for adoption of resolutions urging the government of South Africa to indicate its willingness to engage in meaningful political negotiations with that country's black majority. Federal Financial Assistance.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Six.

RESOLUTIONS TO URGE THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA TO INDICATE ITS WILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE IN MEANINGFUL POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THAT COUNTRY'S BLACK MAJORITY.

1 *Whereas*, since September 1984, a mounting unrest against
2 racial oppression in the Republic of South Africa has led to the
3 violent death of more than 1,000 individuals, most of them black,
4 the detention without charges of thousands more and a declared
5 state of emergency in several areas of that country;

6 *Whereas*, a peaceful resolution to this violence and conflict in
7 the Republic of South Africa is unlikely unless the Government
8 of that country moves to end its abhorrent system of apartheid
9 which denies the country's black majority the right to vote, the
10 right to own land, and the right to freedom of movement;

11 *Whereas*, the Government of the United States, the United
12 Nations, and virtually every country in the world has condemned
13 the practice of apartheid by the Government of South Africa and
14 its enactment of the repressive measures that have led to the
15 current violence;

16 *Whereas*, the Government of the United States has sought to
17 use its influence and leverage to promote peace and peaceful
18 change through diplomatic appeals and the imposition of limited
19 economic sanctions;

20 *Whereas*, the 98th Congress of the United States adopted the
21 "Mandela Freedom Resolution", calling for the unconditional
22 release of Nelson Mandela, the black South African leader who
23 has been imprisoned for 23 years and his wife Winnie Mandela,

24 who has been a “banned” person in South Africa for the past 21
25 years;

26 *Whereas*, the President has called for the South African
27 Government to end its practice of detention without trial and
28 lengthy imprisonment of black leaders, in addition to calling for
29 the establishment of a government based on the consent of the
30 governed;

31 *Whereas*, the Secretary of State has urged the release of Nelson
32 Mandela and indicated the need for the South African
33 Government to meet with leaders of the black majority, including
34 Mandela and the outlawed African National Congress;

35 *Whereas*, the African National Congress, which has banned in
36 1960, is today the oldest and most prominent of the organizations
37 of resistance against the apartheid system of South Africa and is
38 highly regarded by that country’s black majority;

39 *Whereas*, representatives of the South African business
40 community, clergy, and university student organizations have met
41 or attempted to meet with officials of the African National
42 Congress to establish lines of communications for future
43 discussions on the problems of the country;

44 *Whereas*, Nelson Mandela, who has been in South African
45 prisons since 1962 and who is still considered the leader of the
46 banned African National Congress, is regarded by many black
47 South Africans as one of the most respected symbols of resistance
48 against apartheid;

49 *Whereas*, it is evident that an end to South Africa’s racial
50 turmoil is impossible if the Government of that country does not
51 begin a meaningful dialogue with the leaders of the black majority;

52 *Whereas*, the continued turmoil and unrest in the Republic of
53 South Africa threaten the peace, security, and stability of the other
54 nations of Southern Africa and has led to cross-border violence
55 in the region; and

56 *Whereas*, the urgent moment has arrived for the Government
57 of South Africa to initiate bold steps to end apartheid and the
58 current unrest and to achieve peace and peaceful change:

59 now, therefore, be it

60 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Massachusetts House of
61 Representatives that the President of the United States should use
62 his good offices to urge the Government of the Republic of South

63 Africa to indicate its willingness to engage in meaningful political
64 negotiations with that country's black majority: —

65 (1) by immediately granting unconditional freedom to Nelson
66 Mandela and to all South African political prisoners and
67 detainees;

68 (2) by recognizing the African National Congress as a
69 legitimate representative for the country's black majority; and

70 (3) by establishing the framework for the political talks which
71 hopefully could lead to a negotiated settlement with the black
72 majority; and be it further

73 *Resolved*, that a copy of these resolutions be forwarded by the
74 Clerk of the House of Representatives to the President of the
75 United States, the Massachusetts Senators in Congress, and to
76 the President of the Republic of South Africa.