

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 148

Reps. Aragona, Kuhn, McFall, Shannon, Wozniak, Bezotte, Steele, St. Germaine and Roth offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to urge the President of the United States to  
2 provide assistance and medical aid to the community of  
3 Qaraqosh/Bakhdida, Iraq, following a devastating fire at a local  
4 wedding.

5           Whereas, On September 26, 2023, an unthinkable tragedy struck  
6 the city of Qaraqosh/Bakhdida in the Nineveh governorate of  
7 northern Iraq. As a newlywed couple celebrated their union  
8 surrounded by friends and family, fireworks erupted on the dance  
9 floor and ignited the banquet hall, engulfing the venue in a blaze.  
10 In an instant, what should have been the happiest moment in a young  
11 couple's life became a horrifying nightmare. In the ensuing chaos,  
12 attendees struggled to escape the building. It was later discovered

1 that the venue was constructed of highly flammable material, had no  
2 emergency exits, and was filled far beyond its capacity - a perfect  
3 storm for tragedy. While it is reported that the bride and groom  
4 thankfully survived, Iraqi officials have indicated that at least  
5 107 attendees lost their lives while an additional 82 were injured.  
6 Surviving victims suffered extreme burns and other physical and  
7 psychological injuries that will necessitate specialized care -  
8 care that the local medical community in Qaraqosh/Bakhdida may be  
9 unequipped to sufficiently provide; and

10       Whereas, Medical facilities in Qaraqosh/Bakhdida are  
11 insufficiently equipped to provide the necessary medical care for  
12 the survivors of this tragic fire. It has been reported that local  
13 hospitals in Qaraqosh/Bakhdida - a city home to only 35,000 people  
14 - have been overwhelmed with the sudden influx of victims needing  
15 comprehensive and intense medical intervention. Unable to cope with  
16 the stress, medical professionals in Qaraqosh/Bakhdida have already  
17 begun transferring their patients to burn facilities in other  
18 countries, desperately attempting to ensure that the victims of  
19 this fire receive the best care possible given the dire  
20 circumstances; and

21       Whereas, The United States has a proven track record  
22 indicating our commitment to offering humanitarian assistance to  
23 those in need across the world. Our status as a world leader places  
24 us in the fortunate position to be able to demonstrate that  
25 commitment once more by providing aid to the victims of the fire in  
26 Qaraqosh/Bakhdida. There are few ways in which the vast resources  
27 at the disposal of our federal government can be better spent than  
28 by offering support to communities in need. By offering medical  
29 assistance and other desperately needed resources to the victims of

1 the Qaraqosh/Bakhdida fire and the medical professionals working  
2 tirelessly on their behalf, the federal government would  
3 demonstrate the compassion of the American people and our  
4 commitment to promoting peace, stability, and well-being in Iraq  
5 and the world beyond; and

6       Whereas, The state of Michigan has particularly strong ties to  
7 the Assyrian-Chaldean-Syriac people, the primary ethnic demographic  
8 of the city of Qaraqosh/Bakhdida. The Assyrian-Chaldean-Syriac  
9 diaspora has established deep roots in our state, which hosts the  
10 largest population of this people in the nation. The contributions  
11 made by this community to our state's rich culture and robust  
12 economy cannot be quantified. Therefore, we recognize that Michigan  
13 maintains a vested interest in supporting our friends and neighbors  
14 in Qaraqosh/Bakhdida, further strengthening ties long established  
15 between our distant communities; now, therefore, be it

16       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the  
17 President of the United States to provide assistance and medical  
18 aid to the community of Qaraqosh/Bakhdida, Iraq, following a  
19 devastating fire at a local wedding; and be it further

20       Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the  
21 President of the United States.