



United States Senator Kansas

**Sam Brownback**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
NEWS RELEASE

Contact Brian Hart/Aaron Groote

February 19, 2004

**BROWNBACK DISMISSES IRAN'S ELECTIONS, SUPPORTS  
REFERENDUM FOR GENUINE DEMOCRACY IN IRAN**

*Brownback Resolution Unanimously Passed the Senate*

WASHINGTON – The United States Senate last week passed a resolution introduced by Senator Sam Brownback condemning the parliamentary election to be held in Iran tomorrow.

Adopted unanimously, the resolution read in part, “Whereas the circumstances in Iran clearly demonstrate that authentic pro-democratic reform within the regime of Iran is not possible,” the United States “should not legitimize or support the elections in Iran...as such elections stifle the growth of the genuine democratic forces in Iran. The support provided by the United States should be provided to the people of Iran, and not to any political figure that supports the preservation of the current regime. The policy of the United States should be to advocate a genuine democratic government in Iran that will restore freedom to the people of Iran, will abandon terrorism, will protect human rights, and will live in peace and security with the international community.”

Commenting on tomorrow's Iranian election, Brownback stated, “Any election where the ruling elite can declare thousands of valid candidates, even standing members of Parliament, ineligible to run for office, is not a real election. It is important for us to recognize the current regime in Iran for what it is - an illegitimate, ruling elite that stifles the growth of genuine democracy, abuses human rights, exports terrorism, seeks to develop nuclear weapons, and is overtly and covertly meddling in Iraq’s internal affairs.”

“By their defiance and despite a tremendous price so far, the Iranian people have rejected hollow promises of reform. Their message to us is that Iran's ruling theocracy can not be reformed from

within and that instead of engaging Iran's so-called moderates or any other faction, we must engage the Iranian people and their democratic opposition by fully supporting the call for an internationally monitored referendum for democratic change to determine the fate of the fundamentalist regime in Iran. There is hope for internal change by relying on the organized opposition, where there was none in Iraq or Afghanistan.

“The United States must be on the right side of history. It should not send mixed signals to Tehran, but remain, as President Bush has made clear, strongly supportive of a free Iran. There should be no division in the U.S. government about the fact that the Iranian regime is a threat to its own people, to the United States and to the rest of the world. Nor should there be any division on the need to have a firm and uncompromising stand against the theocracy in Iran, which is a terrorist state second to none. The Iranian people and the Iranian regime alike should see from our action that we are united and resolute in our policy to seek a genuine democratic government in Iran.”