

**Substitute for House Resolution No. 79.**

A resolution to support and encourage the International Criminal Court to conduct an independent investigation into the alleged human rights violations occurring in the Chechen Republic of Russia.

Whereas, A formal complaint has been filed with the International Criminal Court alleging horrific harms inflicted on gay men in the Chechen Republic of Russia. The complaint cites abuses stemming from both governmental actions as well as so-called "honor killings" by members of the men's own families; and

Whereas, The Chechen Republic of Russia has denied that any abuses have occurred, and have further denied that gay men exist within the Chechen Republic. Russia has begun an internal investigation into the alleged abuses; and

Whereas, Every human being has the right to life and to be free from bodily integrity abuses by their government. These basic human rights include the right to be free from torture and other forms of cruel and unusual punishment; and

Whereas, The International Criminal Court should not stand idly by if severe violations of basic human rights have in fact occurred against residents of one of its member nations. The International Criminal Court has the authority to open an official investigation into the alleged violations occurring in the Chechen Republic of Russia; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we support and encourage the International Criminal Court to conduct an independent investigation into the human rights violations allegedly occurring in the Chechen Republic of Russia; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the International Criminal Court, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.