

Senator Runestad offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 031

A resolution to oppose the mass deportation of Iraqi nationals residing in Michigan and the United States.

Whereas, In June 2017, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrested dozens of Michigan Chaldean Iraqis and threatened them with deportation. Nationwide, approximately 1,400 Iraqi nationals have been targeted by ICE; and

Whereas, Recognizing the grave danger these individuals face if removed, a U.S. district court ordered a temporary stay of removal in 2017. The stay of removal was reversed in December 2018, and an estimated 1,000 individuals are now at immediate risk of deportation with many more at risk in future months; and

Whereas, Forcibly removing these individuals from their homes and communities will put their lives in danger. Many Iraqi nationals came to the United States as refugees, fleeing perilous conditions in Iraq. Some are members of religious minorities and will face grievous persecution in Iraq, not just for their religious beliefs, but for being Americanized; and

Whereas, Iraqi nationals complement our American society with a proven history of contributing to the economic and social well-being of this nation. Metro Detroit has the largest concentration of Chaldeans outside of Iraq, a population of business owners, employees, and families that is indispensable to the local economy. They have lived legally in the U.S. for decades and know no home except for America; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we oppose the mass deportation of Iraqi nationals residing in Michigan and the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Acting Director of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.