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**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS
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Supporting Women and Girls in Iran

On September 16, 2022, Mahsa Amini died after she was detained by Iran's morality police while visiting her family in Tehran, allegedly because she was wearing a hijab improperly. There are suspicions that she had been tortured as well as reports that her head had been slammed repeatedly against a hard surface.

Mahsa's death sparked a wave of protests throughout the capital of Iran, all of the 31 provinces of Iran, and at least 150 other cities globally. Iranians - particularly women - have taken to the streets demanding justice for Amini and calling for an end to the morality police and the hijab mandate. Chanting "women, life, and freedom", the protestors are also demanding that the original promises of the 1979 Iranian revolution - freedom, independence, social justice - be fulfilled. Women and girls have been documented removing and burning their hijabs-an act that could cost them their lives- and cutting their hair. The enforcement of head coverings for women came two years after the 1979 Iranian revolution. Women in government offices were the first required to wear the head scarf. Eventually, the law extended to all women and girls over age 9, justified by Shariah law. According to Iran's conservative clerics, the hijab would protect female chastity and honor.

Iranian women have contested laws governing their choice of clothing for decades. The

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women's rights movement in the country has also fought against laws that allowed men to divorce more easily than women, granted men exclusive custody of children, lifted restrictions on polygamy for men, lowered the marriage age for girls, barred women from attending men's sporting events, restricted women's inheritance of real property, banned women from certain fields of study at universities, banned women from holding high official positions, and required women to get their husbands' or fathers' permission to travel.

Under former President Hassan Rouhani, many young Iranians tested the boundaries of clothing requirements. Some women even began removing headscarves in restaurants and while riding in cars. Iran's most recently elected president, Ebrahim Raisi has tightened enforcement of strict social and religious rules.

This latest wave of protests is the largest the country has seen since the Green Revolution in 2009 when suspicions around the legitimacy of President Ahmadinejad's reelection drove protestors to the streets. The government response then resulted in the death of over 1000 Iranians. The government has once again instituted a violent crackdown against peaceful protestors, resulting in the injury and detention of hundreds of protestors and the death of at least 154 people as of October 6, 2022. This included an unprecedented attack against students at the prestigious Sharif University where some of Iran's brightest minds were locked in an underground parking lot, beaten, and arrested. The movement has entered its fourth week with unconfirmed reports on social media showing workers at Abadan and Kangan oil refineries and the Bushehr Petrochemical Project joining the protests.

Los Angeles County is home to the largest Iranian community outside of Iran. County residents have been taking to the streets of Los Angeles to support Iranian protestors. This Board must show solidarity with the protestors in Iran and stand for women's rights alongside countless demonstrators across the County.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch to send a 5- signature letter to President Joseph R. Biden and the United States Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, to:

1. Proclaim Los Angeles County's support of women's rights in Iran and for Iranians protesting for women's rights and freedom abroad and here in the United States.
2. Commend the Administration's actions including sanctions on Iran's morality police and senior security and government officials who have engaged in human rights violations responding to the protests.
3. Express the County's opposition of the state-imposed internet restrictions and call for lifting the restrictions to restore and expand internet access in Iran.

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