



WHEREAS, protests broke out across Iran after a 22-year-old Iranian and Kurdish woman, Mahsa (Jina) Amini, died on September 16, 2022 after being arrested and brutally beaten by the morality police for allegedly violating the Islamic dress code for women; and

WHEREAS, protesters have taken to the streets nationwide across Iran and reports indicate that Iranian security forces have used lethal force in killing more than 500 people and arresting more than 18,000 during the demonstrations; and

WHEREAS, Iranian women are at risk of suffering brutality and death for perceived violations of a dress code imposed on them by the Iranian state; and

WHEREAS, bodily autonomy is a human right whether a woman chooses to wear the hijab or not; and

WHEREAS, the Iranian government has also restricted the internet, cutting access to Instagram, WhatsApp and other apps to prevent communication, access to information, and freedom of expression to repress the rights of Iranian citizens, journalists, and human rights defenders; and

WHEREAS, the Iranian government has tortured and carried out at least four executions to date of political prisoners without due legal process or representation in order to quell dissent and sow intimidation amongst the Iranian people, which deserves widespread international condemnation, accountability and action; and

WHEREAS, on November 24, 2022, the United Nations Human Rights Council held a special session and voted to establish a fact-finding mission to fully investigate violations of human rights and international law, with an aim to establishing accountability; and

WHEREAS, on December 14, 2022, Iran was removed from the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women following widespread international condemnation for its attacks on protestors, which was a move supported by certain prominent women's rights activists in Iran, several Iranian-American elected officials serving in the United States, the Biden administration and thousands of Iranian-American residents who signed a petition in support; and

WHEREAS, there are tens of thousands of Coloradans of Iranian descent with family still in Iran, who are worried about the safety of their relatives and of Iranians across their country; and

WHEREAS, the State of Colorado stands with the people of Iran, particularly women, who are engaged in legitimate and peaceful protests against an oppressive and corrupt regime;

THEREFORE, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim March 1, 2023 as

COLORADO STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE COURAGEOUS PEOPLE OF IRAN DAY

in the State of Colorado.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this first day of March, 2023



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

*Jared Polis
Governor*