

S. 735.  
Introduced by Senators Leventis, Elliott, Thomas, Drummond, Pinckney, Hayes, Land, Jackson  
and Lourie.

## A SENATE RESOLUTION

TO URGE THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY TO GRANT THE  
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL  
RECOGNITION, ECCLESIASTICAL SUCCESSION, AND THE  
RIGHT TO TRAIN CLERGY OF ALL NATIONALITIES AND TO  
RESPECT THE PROPERTY RIGHTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF  
THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES.

**WHEREAS**, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, located in Istanbul,  
Turkey, is the Sacred See that presides in a spirit of brotherhood over a communion of  
self-governing churches of the Orthodox Christian world; and

**WHEREAS**, the See is led by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew,  
who is the 269<sup>th</sup> in direct succession to the Apostle Andrew and holds titular primacy as *primus  
inter pares*, meaning “first among equals”, in the community of Orthodox churches worldwide;  
and

**WHEREAS**, in 1994, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, along  
with leaders of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, cosponsored the Conference on Peace and  
Tolerance, which brought together Christian, Jewish, and Muslim religious leaders for an  
interfaith dialogue to help end the Balkan conflict and the ethnic conflict in the Caucasus region;  
and

**WHEREAS**, in 1997, the congress of the United States awarded  
Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew with the Congressional Gold Medal; and

**WHEREAS**, following the terrorist attacks on our nation on  
September 11, 2001, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew gathered a group of international  
religious leaders to produce the first joint statement with Muslim leaders that condemned the 9/11  
attacks as “antireligious”; and

**WHEREAS**, in October 2005, the Ecumenical Patriarch, along with  
Christian, Jewish, and Muslim leaders, co-sponsored the Conference on Peace and Tolerance II to  
further promote peace and stability in southeastern Europe, the Caucasus region, and Central Asia  
via religious leaders’ interfaith dialogue, understanding, and action; and