

House Engrossed

FILED

**JANICE K. BREWER
SECRETARY OF STATE**

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Forty-eighth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2008

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 2009

A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

URGING 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.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, the Orthodox Christian Church, in existence for nearly two
4 thousand years, numbers approximately 300 million members worldwide, with
5 more than two million members in the United States; and

6 Whereas, since 1453, the continuing presence of the Ecumenical
7 Patriarchate in Turkey has been a living testament to the religious
8 coexistence of Christians and Muslims; and

9 Whereas, this religious coexistence is in jeopardy because the
10 Ecumenical Patriarchate is considered a minority religion by the Turkish
11 government; and

12 Whereas, the Government of Turkey has limited the candidates available
13 to hold the office of Ecumenical Patriarch to only Turkish nationals, and
14 from the millions of Orthodox Christians living in Turkey at the turn of the
15 twentieth century and due to the continued policies during this period by the
16 Turkish government, there remain fewer than 3,000 members of the Ecumenical
17 Patriarch's flock left in Turkey today; and

18 Whereas, the Government of Turkey closed the Theological School on the
19 island of Halki in 1971 and has refused to allow it to reopen, thus impeding
20 training for Orthodox Christian clergy; and

21 Whereas, the Turkish government has confiscated nearly 94 per cent of
22 the Ecumenical Patriarchate's properties and has placed a 42 per cent tax,
23 retroactive to 1999, on the Baloukli Hospital and Home for the Aged, a
24 charity hospital run by the Ecumenical Patriarchate; and

25 Whereas, this historic pillar of the Christian faith faces extinction
26 if the current policies and practices of the Government of Turkey continue.

27 Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of
28 Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

29 1. That the Government of Turkey cease its discrimination of the
30 Ecumenical Patriarchate and work to uphold and safeguard religious and human
31 rights without compromise.

32 2. That the Government of Turkey grant the Ecumenical Patriarch
33 appropriate international recognition, ecclesiastic succession and the right
34 to train clergy of all nationalities and respect the property rights and
35 human rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

36 3. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies
37 of this Memorial to the Prime Minister of the Government of Turkey, the
38 United States Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, the Ambassador of the
39 Republic of Turkey to the United States and each Member of Congress from the
40 State of Arizona.

~~PASSED BY THE HOUSE MARCH 18, 2008.~~

~~PASSED BY THE SENATE MAY 22, 2008.~~

~~FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE MAY 27, 2008.~~

Passed the House March 18, 2008

by the following vote: 39 Ayes,

20 Nays, 1 Not Voting

[Signature]
Speaker of the House

[Signature]
Chief Clerk of the House

Passed the Senate May 22, 2008

by the following vote: 20 Ayes,

1 Nays, 1 Not Voting

[Signature]
President of the Senate

[Signature]
Secretary of the Senate



H.C.M. 2009

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE

This Resolution received by the Secretary of State
this 27 day of May, 20 08

at 1:46 o'clock P. M.
[Signature]
Secretary of State