



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 11-1014

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Court, Kefalas, Stephens, Conti, Coram, Fields, Gardner D., Massey, Miklosi, Murray, Schafer S., Swalm, Acree, Barker, Baumgardner, Becker, Beezley, Bradford, Brown, Casso, DelGrosso, Duran, Ferrandino, Fischer, Gardner B., Gerou, Hamner, Holbert, Jones, Joshi, Kerr A., Kerr J., Labuda, Lee, Levy, Liston, Looper, McCann, Nikkel, Pabon, Pace, Peniston, Priola, Ramirez, Riesberg, Ryden, Scott, Solano, Sonnenberg, Soper, Swerdfeger, Szabo, Todd, Tyler, Vaad, Vigil, Waller, Williams A., Wilson, McNulty;

also SENATOR(S) Foster, Spence, Aguilar, Boyd, Brophy, Cadman, Carroll, Giron, Grantham, Guzman, Harvey, Heath, Hodge, Hudak, Jahn, Johnston, King S., Lambert, Lundberg, Mitchell, Morse, Newell, Nicholson, Renfroe, Roberts, Scheffel, Schwartz, Shaffer B., Steadman, Tochtrop, White, Williams S..

CONCERNING URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY TO UPHOLD AND SAFEGUARD RELIGIOUS AND HUMAN RIGHTS WITHOUT COMPROMISE.

WHEREAS, The Orthodox Christian Church, in existence for nearly 2,000 years, numbers approximately 300 million members worldwide with more than 2 million members in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Since 1453, the continuing presence of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey has been a living testament to the religious coexistence of Christians and Muslims; and

WHEREAS, This religious coexistence is in doubt because the Ecumenical Patriarchate is considered a minority religion by the Turkish government; and

WHEREAS, There were millions of Orthodox Christians living in Turkey at the turn of the 20th century and there remain fewer than 3,000 of the Ecumenical Patriarch's flock in Turkey today; and

WHEREAS, Orthodox Christians in Colorado and throughout the United States stand to lose their spiritual leader; and

WHEREAS, Where there have been difficulties in the past with the relationship of the Orthodox Christian Church and the Turkish government, certain recent actions by the Turkish government suggest an interest in improving its relationship with and treatment of the Orthodox Christian Church, which actions are acknowledged and welcomed; and

WHEREAS, The people of Colorado desire to encourage the continued dialogue and communication of the leadership of the Turkish government and the Orthodox Christian Church, as demonstrated by recent high-level meetings between Turkish officials and the Ecumenical Patriarchate; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-eighth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:

That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, urge the government of Turkey to:

(1) Uphold and safeguard religious and human rights of all its citizens without compromise;

(2) Grant the Ecumenical Patriarch appropriate international recognition, ecclesiastical succession, and the right to train clergy of all nationalities; and

(3) Respect the property rights and human rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and all religious and faith traditions.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the United States, and to each member of the Colorado Congressional delegation.

Frank McNulty
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Brandon C. Shaffer
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Cindi Markwell
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE