

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 3

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

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2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO THE
3 REPUBLIC OF TURKEY, THE AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY TO THE
4 UNITED STATES, TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED
5 STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.
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7 We, your Memorialists, the House of Representatives and the Senate of
8 the State of Idaho assembled in the First Regular Session of the Sixty-third
9 Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

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

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

15 WHEREAS, this religious coexistence is in doubt because the Ecumenical
16 Patriarchate is considered a minority religion by the Turkish government;
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19 WHEREAS, there were millions of Orthodox Christians living in Turkey at
20 the turn of the 20th century and there remain fewer than 3,000 of the Ecumenical Patriarch's flock in Turkey today; and

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

23 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

24 WHEREAS, the people of Idaho 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.
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29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Session of the Sixty-third Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, that we urge the government of Turkey to:
30 uphold and safeguard religious and human rights of all its citizens without compromise; grant the Ecumenical Patriarch appropriate international recognition, ecclesiastical succession, and the right to train clergy of all nationalities; and respect the property rights and human rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and all religious and faith traditions.
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the United States Ambassador
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1 to the Republic of Turkey, the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the
2 United States, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
3 Representatives of Congress and the congressional delegation representing
4 the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.