

**First Regular Session
Sixty-eighth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R11-0529.01 Beth Treat

HJR11-1014

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 11-1014

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

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

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

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

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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