
Introduced Version

**HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. ____**

Introduced by: Duncan

A RESOLUTION urging Turkey to respect the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Whereas, The government of Turkey refuses to recognize the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the head of the Greek Orthodox Christian Church, which is a minority religion in Turkey;

Whereas, The government of Turkey has confiscated most of the properties of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and has placed a 42% retroactive tax on the Balukli Hospital, which is run by the Ecumenical Patriarchate;

Whereas, The government of Turkey has limited the

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candidates available to the Holy Synod for selection as the Ecumenical Patriarch to Turkish nationals and has reneged on its agreement to reopen the Theological School at Halki, thus impeding training for the clergy;

Whereas, The Orthodox Theological School of Halki is an educational institution for Orthodox Christianity in Turkey, and it was closed in 1971 by Turkish authorities under a law requiring that higher education in religion and minority training be controlled by the state;

Whereas, The United States Congress passed a resolution expressing that the Orthodox Theological School of Halki in the Republic of Turkey must be reopened in order to promote religious freedom;

Whereas, Turkey should restore Hagia Sophia, which has been turned into a museum, to its original purpose as a church;

Whereas, The European Union, a group of nations with a common goal of promoting peace and the well-being of its peoples, began accession negotiations with Turkey on October 3, 2005;

Whereas, The European Union defined membership criteria for accession to the European Union at the Copenhagen European Council in 1993 that obligate candidate countries to have achieved certain levels of reform, including stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, adherence to the rule of law, and respect for the protection of minorities and human rights;

Whereas, Under the terms of the draft European Union Constitution, current and prospective member nations should have the goal of eliminating discrimination based on any ground, such as sex, race, color, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any opinion, national minority membership, property, birth, disability, age, or sexual orientation; and

Whereas, Turkey's current treatment of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is inconsistent with the membership conditions



and goals of the European Union: Therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the
General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives urges
2 Turkey to respect the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical
3 Patriarchate and urges the European Union to deny Turkey membership
4 in the European Union until Turkey changes its policies regarding the
5 Ecumenical Patriarchate.

6 SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
7 Representatives shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the Indiana
8 Congressional delegation.

