

## SENATE AMENDMENTS TO SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 16

By COMMITTEE ON RULES

May 4

1 Delete lines 2 through 16 of the printed joint resolution and insert:

2 “Whereas the Ecumenical Patriarchate, located in Istanbul, Turkey, is the Sacred See that pre-  
3 sides in a spirit of brotherhood over a communion of self-governing churches of the Orthodox  
4 Christian world; and

5 “Whereas the See is led by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who is the 270th in direct suc-  
6 cession to the Apostle Andrew and holds titular primacy as primus inter pares, meaning ‘first among  
7 equals,’ in the community of Orthodox churches worldwide; and

8 “Whereas in 1994, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, along with leaders of the Appeal of  
9 Conscience Foundation, cosponsored the Conference on Peace and Tolerance, which brought to-  
10 gether Christian, Jewish and Muslim religious leaders for an interfaith dialogue to help end the  
11 Balkan conflict and the ethnic conflict in the Caucasus region; and

12 “Whereas in 1997, the Congress of the United States awarded Ecumenical Patriarch  
13 Bartholomew with the Congressional Gold Medal; and

14 “Whereas following the terrorist attacks on our nation on September 11, 2001, Ecumenical Pa-  
15 triarch Bartholomew gathered a group of international religious leaders to produce the first joint  
16 statement with Muslim leaders that condemned the 9/11 attacks as ‘antireligious’; and

17 “Whereas in October 2005, the Ecumenical Patriarch, along with Christian, Jewish and Muslim  
18 leaders, cosponsored the Conference on Peace and Tolerance II to further promote peace and sta-  
19 bility in southeastern Europe, the Caucasus region and Central Asia via religious leaders’ interfaith  
20 dialogue, understanding, and action; and

21 “Whereas the Orthodox Christian Church, in existence for nearly 2,000 years, numbers approx-  
22 imately 300 million members worldwide with more than 2 million members in the United States; and

23 “Whereas since 1453, the continuous presence of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul has  
24 been a living testament to the religious coexistence of Christians and Muslims; and

25 “Whereas this religious coexistence is in jeopardy because the Ecumenical Patriarchate is con-  
26 sidered by the government of the Republic of Turkey to be the head of the Greek minority in  
27 Istanbul exclusively, rather than the head of the Greek Orthodox Church; and

28 “Whereas the Turkish government has limited the candidates available to hold the office of  
29 Ecumenical Patriarch to only Turkish nationals, and there remain fewer than 2,000 Orthodox  
30 Christians living in Turkey today; and

31 “Whereas the Turkish government closed the Orthodox Christian theological school on the is-  
32 land of Halki in 1971 and has refused to allow it to reopen, thus impeding training for Orthodox  
33 Christian clergy; and

34 “Whereas the Turkish government does not recognize the Ecumenical Patriarchate as a legal  
35 entity, and is therefore confiscating all of its properties along with the majority of the property

1 belonging to the Greek community and its parishes, and imposing high taxes on the Balouki Hospital  
2 and Home for the Aged, a charity hospital; and

3 “Whereas the European Union, a group of nations with a common goal of promoting peace and  
4 the well-being of its peoples, began accession negotiations with the Republic of Turkey on October  
5 3, 2005; and

6 “Whereas the European Union defined membership criteria for accession at the Copenhagen  
7 European Council in 1993, obligating candidate countries to achieve certain levels of reform, in-  
8 cluding stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, adherence to the rule of law and respect  
9 for and protection of minorities, human rights and religious rights; and

10 “Whereas the Turkish government’s current treatment of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is incon-  
11 sistent with the membership conditions and goals of the European Union; and

12 “Whereas Orthodox Christians in Oregon and throughout the United States stand to lose their  
13 spiritual leader because of the deliberate actions of the Turkish government; and

14 “Whereas the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of the Order of Saint Andrew the  
15 Apostle, a group of laymen who each have been honored with a patriarchal title, or ‘offikion,’ by the  
16 Ecumenical Patriarch for their outstanding service to the Orthodox Christian Church, will send an  
17 American delegation to Turkey to meet with Turkish government officials, as well as the United  
18 States Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, regarding the Turkish government’s treatment of the  
19 Ecumenical Patriarchate; now, therefore,”.

20 Delete lines 18 and 19 and insert:

21 “That we, the members of the Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly, support the efforts of the  
22 Ecumenical Patriarchate to promote the peaceful coexistence of Christians and Muslims and re-  
23 spectfully request that the Republic of Turkey uphold and safeguard religious and human rights and  
24 grant to the Ecumenical Patriarch appropriate rights and independence to carry on the work of the  
25 Ecumenical Patriarchate in perpetuity.”.

26

---