

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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REPRESENTATIVE DAN SADDLER

SPONSOR STATEMENT

House Joint Resolution 32

“An Act urging the United States Government to take decisive and concrete action and condemn the violent acts of religious persecution and bring a peaceful resolution to the conflicts in Syria.”

Alaskans have a rich tradition of willingness to live and let live – to respect our mutual right to believe and behave as our conscience dictates. This appreciation for our neighbors and their various religious, ethnic and cultural backgrounds is an essential element of our state character, and informs our belief that there are few differences that cannot be resolved peaceably.

Alaskans also have a strong connection with and sympathy for the residents of what is sometimes known as the Holy Land –countries such as Israel, Egypt, Lebanon and Syria that are the birthplace of Christianity, in which the tremendous events documented in the Old and New Testament occurred.

Those of many faiths in Alaska have therefore been saddened and outraged by the tragic consequences of the ongoing civil war in Syria, which have included the murder of innocent women and children, the kidnapping and massacre of Christians, and the systematic destruction of Christian churches.

Alaskans across the state pray for the protection of the Syrian people, and rightly condemn acts of religious persecution perpetrated against the Christian leaders and families in their homeland of Syria.

HJR 32 expresses the solidarity of the Alaska people with the peace-loving people of Syria in opposition to the atrocities occurring in that nation, and urges the United States government to condemn the violent acts of religious persecution and bring a peaceful resolution to these conflicts.