

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & AUDIT COMMITTEE

1 IN THE SENATE

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SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 20

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

Relating to the Armenian genocide.

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

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WHEREAS 1990 is the 75th anniversary of the Armenian genocide, which was conceived by the Turkish government and implemented from 1915 to 1923 and which resulted in the extermination of 1,500,000 Armenian men, women, and children, the deportation of an additional 500,000 survivors, and the elimination of a 2,500-year Armenian presence in Armenia's historic homeland; and

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WHEREAS the Armenian genocide is well documented in the archives of the United States, Austria, France, Germany, and Great Britain; and

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WHEREAS Henry Morgenthau, a former United States Ambassador to Turkey, organized and led protests by all nations, including allies of Turkey, over Turkey's program of race extermination; and

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WHEREAS an organization known as Near East Relief, chartered by an Act of Congress, contributed approximately \$113,000,000 between 1915 and 1930 to aid the Armenian genocide survivors; and

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WHEREAS 132,000 Armenian orphans became foster children of Americans; and

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WHEREAS the fact of the Armenian genocide was confirmed in United States Senate Resolution 359 dated May 13, 1920, which stated in part, "the testimony adduced at the hearings conducted by the subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations have clearly established the truth of the reported massacres and other atrocities from which the Armenian people have suffered"; and

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WHEREAS the fact of the Armenian genocide was also confirmed by United

1 States House Resolution 148, which stated in part, "April 24, 1975, is
2 hereby designated as 'National Day of Remembrance of Man's Inhumanity to
3 Man', and the President of the United States is authorized and requested to
4 issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to ob-
5 serve such day as a day of remembrance for all victims of genocide, espe-
6 cially those of Armenian ancestry who succumbed to the genocide perpetrated
7 in 1915, and in whose memory this date is commemorated by all Armenians and
8 their friends throughout the world"; and

9 WHEREAS former President Carter in a May 16, 1978, speech at the White
10 House stated in part, "I feel very deeply that I, as President, ought to
11 make sure that this (Armenian genocide) is never forgotten"; and

12 WHEREAS the United States, during the March 14 and 16, 1979, sessions
13 of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, voted to support para-
14 graph 30 of a report entitled "Study of the Questions of the Prevention and
15 Punishment of the Crime of Genocide" that stated, "Passing to the modern
16 era, one may note the existence of relatively full documentation dealing
17 with the massacres of Armenians"; and

18 WHEREAS the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, an independent
19 federal agency, unanimously resolved on April 30, 1981, that, "the Armenian
20 genocide should be included in the Holocaust Museum Memorial"; and

21 WHEREAS former President Ronald Reagan in proclamation 4838, dated
22 April 22, 1981, stated in part, "like the genocide of the Armenians before
23 it, the genocide of the Cambodians which followed it, and like too many
24 other persecutions of too many other peoples, the lessons of the holocaust
25 must never be forgotten"; and

26 WHEREAS the fact of the Armenian genocide has been documented, af-
27 firmed, and reaffirmed for over six decades;

28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Senate that the Senate recognizes
29 these historical events and condemns genocide in any form.

1 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,
2 President of the United States; to the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President
3 of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas
4 Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable George
5 Mitchell, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Richard
6 Gephardt, Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honor-
7 able Bob Dole, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Robert
8 Michel, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable
9 George Deukmejian, Governor of California; and the Honorable Ted Stevens
10 and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, the Honorable Don Young,
11 U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.