By: Whitmire   S.R. No. 1006

R E S O L U T I O N

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;
4 and
5   WHEREAS, Since 1453, the continuing presence of the
6 Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey has been a living testament to
7 religious coexistence; and
8   WHEREAS, This religious coexistence is in doubt because the
9 Ecumenical Patriarchate is considered a minority religion by the
10 Turkish government; and
11   WHEREAS, There were millions of Orthodox Christians living in
12 Turkey at the turn of the 20th century, but there remain fewer than
13 3,000 in Turkey today; and
14   WHEREAS, Orthodox Christians in Texas and throughout the
15 United States stand to lose their spiritual leader; and
16   WHEREAS, While there have been difficulties in the past with
17 the relationship of the Orthodox Christian Church and the Turkish
18 government, certain recent actions by the Turkish government
19 suggest an interest in improving its relationship with and
20 treatment of the Orthodox Christian Church, and such actions are
21 acknowledged and welcomed; and
22   WHEREAS, The people of Texas desire to encourage continued
23 dialogue and communication between the leadership of the Turkish
24 government and the Orthodox Christian Church, such as recent

1 high-level meetings between Turkish officials and the Ecumenical

2 Patriarchate; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 82nd Texas Legislature

4 hereby urge the government of Turkey to uphold and safeguard

5 religious and human rights of all its citizens without compromise,

6 to grant the Ecumenical Patriarch appropriate international

7 recognition, ecclesiastical succession, and the right to train

8 clergy of all nationalities, and to respect the property rights and

9 human rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and all religious and

10 faith traditions.