1	State of Arkansas
2	87th General Assembly
3	Regular Session, 2009 SCR
4	MAR 19 2009
5	By: Senator D. Johnson
6	By: Representative Wills CHARLIE DANIELS SECRETARY OF STATE
7	BY
8	
9	SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
10	URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY TO GRANT THE
11 ·	ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL
12	RECOGNITION, ECCLESIASTICAL SUCCESSION, AND THE
13	RIGHT TO TRAIN CLERGY OF ALL NATIONALITIES AND TO
14	RESPECT THE PROPERTY RIGHTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF
15	THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE.
16	
17	Subtitle
18	URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY TO GRANT
19	THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH APPROPRIATE
20	RECOGNITION AND RIGHTS.
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22	
23	WHEREAS, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, located in Istanbul, Turkey, is
24	the Sacred See that presides in a spirit of brotherhood over a communion of
25	self-governing churches of the Orthodox Christian world; and
26	
27	WHEREAS, the See is led by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who is the
28	269th in direct succession to the Apostle Andrew and holds titular primacy as
29	primus inter pares, meaning "first among equals", in the community of
30	Orthodox churches worldwide; and
31	THIRDRAC who Could be controlled to the controll
32	WHEREAS, the Orthodox Christian Church, in existence for nearly two
33	thousand (2,000) years, numbers approximately three hundred million



members in the United States; and

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(300,000,000) members worldwide with more than two million (2,000,000)

WHEREAS, since 1453, the continuing presence of the Ecumenical 1 Patriarchate in Turkey has been a living testament to the religious 2 coexistence of Christians and Muslims; and 3 4 5 WHEREAS, this religious coexistence is in jeopardy because the 6 Ecumenical Patriarchate is considered a minority religion by the Government 7 of Turkey; and 8 9 WHEREAS, the Government of Turkey has limited the candidates available 10 to hold the office of Ecumenical Patriarch to only Turkish nationals, and 11 from the millions of Orthodox Christians living in Turkey at the turn of the 12 twentieth century and due to the continued policies during this period by the Government of Turkey, there remain less than three thousand (3,000) of the 13 Ecumenical Patriarch's flock left in Turkey today; and 14 15 16 WHEREAS, the Government of Turkey closed the Theological School on the Island of Halki in 1971 and has refused to allow it to reopen, thus impeding 17 training for Orthodox Christian clergy; and 18 19 20 WHEREAS, the Government of Turkey has confiscated nearly ninety-four percent (94%) of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's properties and has placed a 21 tax of forty-two percent (42%), retroactive to 1999, on the Balouki Hospital 22 and Home for the Aged, a charity hospital owned by the Ecumenical 23 24 Patriarchate; and 25 26 WHEREAS, the European Union, a political and economic union of nation 27 states with a common goal of promoting peace and the well-being of its 28 people, began accession negotiations with Turkey on October 2, 2005; and 29 30 WHEREAS, the European Union defined membership criteria for accession 31 at the Copenhagen European Council in 1993, obligating candidate countries to achieve certain levels of reform, including stability of institutions 32

protection of minorities and human rights; and

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WHEREAS, the Government of Turkey's current treatment of the Ecumenical

guaranteeing democracy, adherence to the rule of law, and respect for and

1	Patriarchate is inconsistent with the membership conditions and goals of the
2	European Union; and
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4	WHEREAS, Orthodox Christians in Arkansas and throughout the United
5	States stand to lose their spiritual leader because of the continued actions
6	of the Government of Turkey,
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8	NOW THEREFORE,
9	BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE
10	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:
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12	THAT the members of the Arkansas General Assembly urge the Government
13	of Turkey to:
.14	(1) Uphold and safeguard religious and human rights without
15	compromise;
16	(2) Cease its discrimination of the Ecumenical Patriarchate;
17	(3) Grant the Ecumenical Patriarch appropriate international
18	recognition, ecclesiastic succession, and the right to train clergy of all
19	nationalities; and
20	(4) Respect the property rights and human rights of the
21	Ecumenical Patriarchate.
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23	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Senate transmit copies of
24	this resolution to:
25	(1) The President of the United States;
26	(2) The United States Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey;
27 .	(3) The Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the United
28	States; and
29	(4) The members of the Arkansas Congressional Delegation.
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35	The following
36	APPROVED CONTROLOR
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