



## Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 31

Introduced by Assemblymen Ohrenschall, Aizley, Anderson, Arberry, Atkinson, Bobzien, Buckley, Carpenter, Christensen, Claborn, Cobb, Conklin, Denis, Dondero Loop, Gansert, Goedhart, Goicoechea, Grady, Gustavson, Hambrick, Hardy, Hogan, Horne, Kihuen, Kirkpatrick, Koivisto, Leslie, Manendo, Mastroluca, McArthur, McClain, Mortenson, Munford, Ocegüera, Parnell, Pierce, Segerblom, Settelmeyer, Smith, Spiegel, Stewart and Woodbury  
Senators Raggio, Amodei, Breeden, Care, Carlton, Cegavske, Coffin, Copenig, Hardy, Horsford, Lee, Mathews, McGinness, Nolan, Parks, Rhoads, Schneider, Townsend, Washington, Wiener and Woodhouse

WHEREAS, The Ecumenical Patriarchate, located in Istanbul, Turkey, is the Sacred See that presides in a spirit of brotherhood over a communion of self-governing churches of the Orthodox Christian world; and

WHEREAS, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, See leader, cosponsored the Conference on Peace and Tolerance in 1994 and 2005, fostering an interfaith dialogue among Christian, Jewish and Muslim religious leaders to help end regional ethnic conflicts; and

WHEREAS, In 1997, the United States Congress awarded Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew the Congressional Gold Medal; and

WHEREAS, The Orthodox Christian Church, in existence for nearly 2,000 years, numbers approximately 300,000,000 members worldwide with more than 2,000,000 members in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Since 1453, the presence of the Ecumenical Patriarchate as international head of the Greek Orthodox Church in Turkey testifies to religious coexistence; and

WHEREAS, The Turkish government has limited those able to hold the office of Ecumenical Patriarch to Turkish nationals, threatening the viability of succession; and

WHEREAS, The Turkish government confiscated a large percentage of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's and the Greek community's properties, placed a high tax on one of the Patriarchate's charity hospitals, the Baloukli Hospital and Home for the Aged, and closed the Theological School of Halki in 1971, impeding Orthodox clergy training; and

WHEREAS, The European Council began accession negotiations with Turkey, and the Turkish government's current treatment of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is inconsistent with the defined membership criteria for accession of the European Union; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the members of the 75th Session of the Nevada Legislature do hereby urge the Government of Turkey to uphold and safeguard religious and human rights without compromise, to grant the Ecumenical Patriarch appropriate international recognition, including ecclesiastic succession and the right to train clergy of all nationalities, and to respect the human rights and property rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, including cessation of discrimination; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the United States and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation.



ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY  
May 06, 2009

*Barbara Buckley*  
Speaker of the Assembly

*Le Parnell*  
Chief Clerk of the Assembly

ADOPTED BY THE SENATE  
May 06, 2009

*Jim*  
President of the Senate

*Claire J. Clift*  
Secretary of the Senate