HLS 15RS-2156 **ORIGINAL**

2015 Regular Session

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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 180

BY REPRESENTATIVE PATRICK WILLIAMS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: Expresses support for efforts to preserve fundamental rights, free media, and democratic principals in Turkey

A RESOLUTION

2	To express support for efforts to preserve fundamental rights, free media, and democratic
3	principles in Turkey.
4	WHEREAS, the United States and Turkey are longstanding allies, and Turkey is a
5	key member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and a strategic partner in the Middle
6	East region; and
7	WHEREAS, a strong democracy requires both tolerance and transparency, and recent
8	decisions by the Turkish government to suppress dissenting voices are threats to the
9	democratic principles that Turkey has previously upheld; and
10	WHEREAS, the Turkish government has become increasingly authoritarian as it
11	detains journalists, suppresses political dissidents, and disregards fundamental democratic
12	precepts in Turkey; and
13	WHEREAS, many have expressed alarm relative to the recent arrests of members
14	of the Turkish media, media owners, and prominent journalists, which many feel are
15	undermining freedom, democracy, and economic prosperity in Turkey; and
16	WHEREAS, a free media must be supported and protected to foster an environment
17	open to constructive political discussion and to ensure freedom of expression; and
18	WHEREAS, in the 2010 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana, House
19	Resolution No. 192 and Senate Resolution No. 137 created a Louisianian-Turkish Friendship
20	Task Force to further long-standing Louisiana-Turkey relations, build upon time-honored

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- 1 friendships, and promote the cultural, educational, academic, political, and economic
- 2 relations between Louisianians and Turkish people; and
- 3 WHEREAS, a vibrant and dedicated Turkish-American community in Louisiana has
- 4 been very active and involved in cultivating and promoting strong economic, educational,
- 5 and social ties between Turkey and the United States.
- THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
- 7 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express support for efforts to preserve fundamental
- 8 rights, free media, and democratic principles in Turkey.
- 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that suitable copies of this Resolution be transmitted
- 10 to president and chief executive officer of the Turquoise Council of Americans and
- 11 Eurasians.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 180 Original

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Patrick Williams

Expresses support for efforts to preserve fundamental rights, free media, and democratic principles in Turkey.