

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 180

BY REPRESENTATIVE PATRICK WILLIAMS

A RESOLUTION

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

WHEREAS, the United States and Turkey are longstanding allies, and Turkey is a key member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and a strategic partner in the Middle East region; and

WHEREAS, a strong democracy requires both tolerance and transparency, and recent decisions by the Turkish government to suppress dissenting voices are threats to the democratic principles that Turkey has previously upheld; and

WHEREAS, the Turkish government has become increasingly authoritarian as it detains journalists, suppresses political dissidents, and disregards fundamental democratic precepts in Turkey; and

WHEREAS, many have expressed alarm relative to the recent arrests of members of the Turkish media, media owners, and prominent journalists, which many feel are undermining freedom, democracy, and economic prosperity in Turkey; and

WHEREAS, a free media must be supported and protected to foster an environment open to constructive political discussion and to ensure freedom of expression; and

WHEREAS, in the 2010 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana, House Resolution No. 192 and Senate Resolution No. 137 created a Louisianian-Turkish Friendship Task Force to further long-standing Louisiana-Turkey relations, build upon time-honored friendships, and promote the cultural, educational, academic, political, and economic relations between Louisianians and Turkish people; and

WHEREAS, a vibrant and dedicated Turkish-American community in Louisiana has been very active and involved in cultivating and promoting strong economic, educational, and social ties between Turkey and the United States.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express support for efforts to preserve fundamental rights, free media, and democratic principles in Turkey.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that suitable copies of this Resolution be transmitted to president and chief executive officer of the Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES