

1 HJR79
2 196243-2
3 By Representatives Fridy, Rowe, Whorton, Pettus, Kiel, Moore
4 (P), Estes, Lipscomb, Holmes, Mooney, Carns, Hill and
5 Standridge
6 RFD: Rules
7 First Read: 02-APR-19

8 DESIGNATING APRIL AS GENOCIDE PREVENTION AND
9 AWARENESS MONTH IN RECOGNITION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE AND
10 THE IMPORTANCE OF REMEMBRANCE.

11
12 WHEREAS, from 1915-1923 during the Armenian
13 Genocide, one and one-half million ethnic Armenian Christian
14 men, women, and children as well as over one million Greeks,
15 Assyrians, Syriacs, and others were massacred as part of the
16 planned complete eradication of those indigenous communities
17 by the Ottoman Turkish Empire during the first modern
18 genocide; and

19 WHEREAS, other cases of genocide followed, including
20 the Holocaust, the killings in Cambodia in 1975, the massacres
21 in Bosnia in 1992, the slaughter in Rwanda in 1994, and now in
22 the 21st century, the displacements and deaths in Darfur as
23 well as targeting of religious minorities by the Islamic State
24 of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in the Middle East; and

25 WHEREAS, during World War II, a Polish lawyer of
26 Jewish decent, Raphael Lemkin, first coined the term
27 "genocide" to describe a coordinated plan of actions with the

1 purpose of annihilating a group itself by disintegrating a
2 group's social institutions, culture, language, national or
3 ethnic identities, religion, and economic existence while also
4 destroying the personal security, liberty, health, and
5 dignity, as well as the lives, of individuals belonging to the
6 group; and

7 WHEREAS, recognition and remembrance of the Armenian
8 Genocide, the Holocaust, and all cases of past and ongoing
9 genocide is a critical step in ensuring that similar
10 atrocities do not occur again and that we remain vigilant
11 against hatred, persecution, and tyranny; and

12 WHEREAS, Alabama is home to many Armenian families,
13 and Armenian-Americans living in Alabama have greatly enriched
14 the state through their leadership in business, agriculture,
15 academia, government, and the arts; and

16 WHEREAS, due to the loss of uncountable thousands of
17 Armenians and much of their ancient homelands, the memory of
18 the Armenian people and their struggles is now especially
19 necessary in order to preserve their unique history and
20 culture which they have shared with the world; and

21 WHEREAS, a special committee was formed in
22 Constantinople in March 1919 by a group of Ottoman Armenian
23 survivors, and because of that committee's efforts, the memory
24 of the victims of Armenian genocide was commemorated for the
25 first time among the Armenians of Constantinople in April
26 1919; and

1 WHEREAS, throughout history, numerous genocides
2 originated or stemmed from events that occurred in April, and
3 as a result, many institutions around the world have
4 designated April to be a month of genocide prevention and
5 awareness; and

6 WHEREAS, Governor Kay Ivey, on March 20, 2019,
7 proclaimed April 2019 as Genocide Awareness Month in
8 recognition of the Armenian Genocide; now therefore,

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
10 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That this body does hereby
11 recognize the month of April 2019 as Genocide Awareness Month
12 in commemoration of the centennial anniversary of the first
13 remembrance of the Armenian genocide.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this body joins in the
15 mourning of humanity's darkest moments and in the celebration
16 of the survival of the Armenian peoples and other victims of
17 genocide, and does hereby offer prayers and hope for peace in
18 the world.