



HR0765

LRB101 20516 MST 70118 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Assyrians, an ethnic minority group, are the  
3 indigenous people of Mesopotamia and have lived in the Middle  
4 East since ancient times, including in what is today Turkey,  
5 Iraq, Iran, and Syria; and

6           WHEREAS, Assyrians, also known as Chaldeans and Syriacs,  
7 today live around the world, including over 600,000 in the  
8 United States and over 34,000 in Illinois; and

9           WHEREAS, Between 1914 and 1923, the Assyrian Genocide  
10 occurred, during which the Ottoman Empire murdered over 300,000  
11 Assyrian men, women, and children by methods that included mass  
12 executions, death marches, torture, and starvation; and

13           WHEREAS, During the Assyrian Genocide, also known as the  
14 Seyfo Genocide, the Ottoman Turks and their Kurdish allies also  
15 systematically raped and enslaved Assyrian women and girls,  
16 forced the Assyrians from their ancestral lands, and pillaged  
17 and destroyed their communities; and

18           WHEREAS, The massacre of over two million Armenians,  
19 Assyrians, Greeks, and other Christian and religious minority  
20 populations represented the final culmination of a series of  
21 violent persecutions dating back to the late 1800s; and

1           WHEREAS, 2020 marks the 105th anniversary of the Armenian,  
2           Assyrian, and Greek genocides of 1915, which were part of the  
3           planned eradication of those indigenous communities by the  
4           Ottoman Turkish Empire, yet to this day, Turkey has still not  
5           recognized these genocides; and

6           WHEREAS, The denial of genocide is widely recognized as the  
7           final stage of genocide, maintaining impunity for the  
8           perpetrators of these atrocities and demonstrably paving the  
9           way for future genocides; and

10          WHEREAS, The resilience and endurance of the Assyrian  
11          people is commendable and praiseworthy, despite being victims  
12          of an ethnocide that the Islamic State continues today;  
13          therefore, be it

14          RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
15          HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
16          we recognize the Assyrian Genocide of 1915 as a genocide and  
17          reprehensible crime against humanity and honor the memory of  
18          the hundreds of thousands of Assyrians who were murdered during  
19          the Assyrian Genocide of 1915; and be it further

20          RESOLVED, That we declare August 7, 2020 as "Assyrian  
21          Remembrance Day" in the State of Illinois; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
2 presented to the Assyrian National Council of Illinois and the  
3 Assyrian American Association of Chicago.