



HR1197

LRB097 22519 GRL 71283 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is home to more than 10,000  
3 Armenians living in communities throughout the State; the  
4 Armenian Apostolic Church has been the spiritual, cultural, and  
5 historic center of Armenian communities for more than 1,700  
6 years; and

7           WHEREAS, His Holiness Catholicos Aram I has been the  
8 spiritual leader of the Holy See of Cilicia of the Armenian  
9 Apostolic Orthodox Church since 1995; he previously visited the  
10 State of Illinois in 1997 and 2005; and

11           WHEREAS, From October 22-25, 2012, His Holiness Catholicos  
12 Aram I will be visiting Armenian Apostolic Churches in  
13 Glenview, Granite City, and Waukegan during his Pontifical  
14 Visit, entitled "Witness and Renewal: Taking the Church to the  
15 People"; and

16           WHEREAS, The goals of His Holiness' visit are to make the  
17 life of the Church a part of the everyday life of the faithful  
18 of all ages, to hear the concerns and thoughts of the faithful,  
19 and to share his vision for the Church in a rapidly changing  
20 world; and

21           WHEREAS, His Holiness was born in 1947 in Beirut, Lebanon;

1 he is a graduate of the Armenian Theological Seminary in  
2 Antelias, Lebanon, and the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey,  
3 Switzerland and holds his Ph.D. from Fordham University in New  
4 York; he was ordained as a priest in 1968 and earned the title  
5 of vartabed (Doctor of the Armenian Church) in 1970; he was  
6 consecrated as Catholicos on July 1, 1995; and

7 WHEREAS, For nearly 50 years, His Holiness has been a  
8 participant in the worldwide Ecumenical Movement and today is  
9 considered to be one of the ecumenical giants of our time;  
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
12 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
13 we designate the week of October 21-27, 2012 as "Armenian  
14 Apostolic Church Week" in the State of Illinois and urge all  
15 members of the community to unite with the Armenian Apostolic  
16 Churches in welcoming His Holiness Catholicos Aram I to our  
17 State as he spreads his theme of "Witness and Renewal: Taking  
18 the Church to the People" during visits to Armenian All Saints  
19 Apostolic Church in Glenview, St. Gregory the Illuminator  
20 Armenian Apostolic Church in Granite City, and St. Paul  
21 Armenian Apostolic Church in Waukegan; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
23 presented to His Holiness Catholicos Aram I as a symbol of our

1 esteem and respect.