

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-first General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**ENGROSSED**

LLS NO. R17-1215.01 Owen Colling x4338

**SJR17-042**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 17-042**

101     **CONCERNING THE "COLORADO DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE**  
102             **ARMENIAN GENOCIDE" ON APRIL 26, 2017.**

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1             WHEREAS, This year marks the 102nd anniversary of the first  
2     genocide of the 20th century, the Armenian genocide, when 1.5 million  
3     men, women, and children of Armenian descent were victims of a brutal  
4     genocide perpetrated by the Turkish Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923;  
5     and

6             WHEREAS, As a result, there are fewer than 75,000 indigenous  
7     Armenians living within the borders of modern Turkey today; and

8             WHEREAS, The contemporary United States Ambassador to the  
9     Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, Sr., stated in 1915, "Whatever  
10    crimes the most perverted instincts of the human mind can devise, and

*Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

SENATE  
Final Reading  
April 26, 2017

1     whatever refinements of persecutions and injustice the most debased  
2     imagination can conceive, became the daily misfortunes of this devoted  
3     people."; and

4             WHEREAS, The killing of the Armenian people was followed by  
5     the systematic destruction of many of the world's oldest churches,  
6     cathedrals, and cross-stones, as well as schools, libraries, treasures of art,  
7     and cultural monuments that continues to this day in an attempt to  
8     eliminate all traces of a noble civilization with a history of more than  
9     3,000 years; and

10            WHEREAS, Colorado newspapers widely reported the  
11     extermination of the Armenian people, and Colorado communities  
12     generously raised funds to assist the survivors, known at that time as the  
13     "Starving Armenians", as illustrated in the January 16, 1919, Denver Post  
14     front-page story titled "Campaign for Armenian Relief is Making  
15     Splendid Headway" and a July 30, 1922, Denver Post front-page story  
16     titled "\$60,000,000 from U.S. Keeps Armenians from Extinction"; and

17            WHEREAS, In response to the genocide and at the behest of  
18     President Woodrow Wilson and the U.S. State Department, the Near East  
19     Relief organization was founded and became the first congressionally  
20     sanctioned American philanthropic effort created exclusively to provide  
21     humanitarian assistance and rescue the Armenian Nation and other  
22     Christian minorities from annihilation, and many of those rescued went  
23     on to survive, revive, and thrive outside of their ancestral homeland all  
24     over the world and specifically in the state of Colorado; and

25            WHEREAS, Near East Relief succeeded, with the active  
26     participation of many Coloradans, including Governor Oliver Shoup, who  
27     concurrently served as Colorado State Chairman for Near East Relief, in  
28     delivering \$117 million of assistance and saving more than one million  
29     refugees, including 132,000 orphans, between 1915 and 1930 by  
30     delivering food, clothing, and materials for shelter and setting up refugee  
31     camps, clinics, hospitals, and orphanages; and

32            WHEREAS, Each April, Armenians throughout the world honor  
33     their martyrs and commemorate the Armenian genocide, a term first used  
34     by Raphael Lemkin, the legal scholar who coined the word "genocide"  
35     and drafted the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and  
36     Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, explaining on CBS television in  
37     1949 that he "became interested in genocide because it happened to the

1       Armenians; and . . . their criminals . . . were not punished"; and

2               WHEREAS, We commend Armenians of Colorado, Inc., the  
3       Colorado Coalition for Genocide Awareness and Action, and other human  
4       rights organizations for their ongoing efforts to bring awareness and to  
5       educate the community, including our youth, about the Armenian  
6       genocide, as illustrated in the recent production of Emmy-winning  
7       composer Denise Gentilini's I AM ALIVE musical; now, therefore,

8               *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-first General Assembly*  
9       *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

10              (1) That we pause in our deliberations to commemorate the 102nd  
11       anniversary of the Armenian genocide, which was formally recognized at  
12       a memorial service at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 23, 2017, at the  
13       Armenian Garden, established in 1982 in the northeast quadrant on the  
14       State Capitol grounds with a memorial plaque, and renovated and  
15       renewed in 2015 with the addition of the khachkar memorial, a replica of  
16       a destroyed medieval Armenian headstone;

17              (2) That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly,  
18       hereby acknowledge April 26, 2017, and April 26 of each year thereafter,  
19       as "Colorado Day of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide"; and

20              (3) That we express support for efforts toward constructive and  
21       durable relations between the country of Armenia, the homeland for the  
22       Armenian people, and its neighbors, based upon acknowledgment of the  
23       facts and ongoing consequences of the Armenian genocide, and a fair,  
24       just, and comprehensive international resolution of this crime against  
25       humanity.

26              *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent  
27       to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States; the  
28       members of Colorado's congressional delegation; the members of the  
29       Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues; the Honorable John  
30       Hickenlooper, Governor of Colorado; the Armenian Assembly of  
31       America in Washington, D.C.; the Armenian National Committee of  
32       America in Washington, D.C.; the Armenian Embassy in Washington,  
33       D.C.; the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute in Yerevan, Armenia; the  
34       Colorado Coalition for Genocide Awareness and Action; and Armenians  
35       of Colorado, Inc.