

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.253

Reps. Manoogian, Frederick, Brixie, Clemente, Crawford, Garza, Greig, Haadsma, Hood, Kuppa, Liberati, Love, Sabo, Schroeder, Shannon, Sneller, Stone and Witwer offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare April 24, 2020, as a Day of
2 Remembrance in the state of Michigan for the Armenian Genocide of
3 1915-1923.

4 Whereas, The state of Michigan recognizes that the Armenian
5 Genocide occurred from 1915 to 1923. Armenians, as well as Greeks,
6 Assyrian-Chaldeans, Syriacs, Arameans, Maronites, and other
7 Christians were subject to torture, starvation, mass murder, lethal
8 human medical experimentation, and exile from their historic
9 homeland. Over 1.5 million lost their lives. The Armenian Genocide
10 represented a deliberate attempt by the Ottoman Empire to eliminate



1 all traces of an ancient, thriving, and noble civilization that had
2 lived in these regions for millennia; and

3 Whereas, The majority of the Armenian population was displaced
4 from their homes and forced to escape to neighboring and faraway
5 communities and countries. Many refugees fled to the United States.
6 Today, Michigan is honored to be home to a vibrant Armenian-
7 American population of more than 17,000 Michiganders. This thriving
8 community is a proud reminder of survival and perseverance in the
9 face of extreme injustice; and

10 Whereas, the state of Michigan and its citizens played a vital
11 role in relief efforts to assist those persecuted by the Ottoman
12 Empire. As staunch supporters of the Near East Relief campaign,
13 Michiganders from all walks of life donated 100 tons of relief
14 supplies to Armenian refugees, collected on "Bundle Day" in 1923.
15 Michigan women also established collection drives for foodstuffs
16 packages through the "Say It with Flour" campaign; and

17 Whereas, Michigan Armenian churches and community
18 organizations have organized numerous charity and community drives
19 across the state, including, but not limited to, providing college
20 scholarships for deserving students and serving Armenian refugee
21 communities across the state; and

22 Whereas, Both houses of the 116th Congress of the United
23 States recently voted to commemorate and recognize the atrocities
24 of the Armenian Genocide, reject efforts to associate the United
25 States government with efforts to deny the existence of the
26 Armenian Genocide or any genocide, and encourage education and
27 public understanding about the Armenian Genocide; and

28 Whereas, By recognizing and consistently remembering the
29 Armenian Genocide, the Holocaust and all cases of past and ongoing

1 genocide, we help protect historic memory, ensure that similar
2 atrocities do not occur again, and remain vigilant against hatred,
3 persecution and tyranny. The Armenian community of Michigan has
4 used its deep understanding of historic pain and dispersal to
5 constantly and consistently stand alongside other persecuted
6 communities in Michigan and around the world; and Whereas, Armenian
7 communities around the world commemorate this tragedy on April 24,
8 2020. On this day, we honor the victims and survivors of the
9 Genocide and reaffirm our commitment to preventing future
10 atrocities from being committed against any people; now, therefore,
11 be it

12 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
13 this legislative body declare April 24, 2020, as a Day of
14 Remembrance in the state of Michigan for the Armenian Genocide of
15 1915-1923.