
Senate Bill No.: SB-2014-15-004

Date: January 23, 2015

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Referred to: Committee of the Whole

Committee Rec.: **Approved on 2/25/2015 (5-0-0)**

Senate Action: **Approved on 3/9/2015 (14-0-0)**

Title: **100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide – April 2015**

1. WHEREAS: The Associated Students, Inc. (A.S.) is the official voice of over **40,000** students at California State University Northridge; and
2. WHEREAS: A.S. is the primary advocate for students at CSUN and provides excellent, meaningful programs and services designed to create and enhance a spirited, learning-focused campus environment; and
3. WHEREAS: In accomplishing its mission, A.S. has the responsibility to inform students of key issues that affect our diverse communities; and
4. WHEREAS: Acknowledging the fact that CSUN caters to the largest Armenian student university population outside of Armenia, with over 10% of the population being of Armenian descent¹; and
5. WHEREAS: The Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923, cost the lives of 1.5 million men, women, and children of Armenian descent as the Turkish Ottoman Empire

¹<http://www.csun.edu/sites/default/files/Northridge%2064.pdf>

attempted to systematically eliminate the Armenian people, one of the most atrocious violations of human rights in the history of the world; and

6. WHEREAS: Turkish rulers of the Ottoman Empire subjected Armenians to severe and unjust persecution including but not limited to widespread massacres beginning in the 1890's.
7. WHEREAS: Citizens of Turkey, both Armenian and non-Armenian, who speak the truth about the Armenian Genocide, such as assassinated human rights activist and journalist Hrant Dink, continue to be silenced and/or imprisonment based on Turkish Penal Code 301, forbidding the recognition of the Armenian Genocide as insulting Turkish identity; and
8. WHEREAS: The Armenian Genocide was officially recognized by the United States Government on May 28, 1951 in a written statement to the International Court of Justice; through President Ronald Reagan's April 22, 1981, Proclamation No. 4838; and by Congressional House Joint Resolution 148 adopted on April 8, 1975, and House Joint Resolution 247 adopted on September 10, 1984; and
9. WHEREAS: The State of California has been at the forefront of encouraging and promoting a curriculum relating to human rights and genocide in order to empower future generations to prevent recurrence of genocide; and
10. WHEREAS: California is home to the largest Armenian-American population in the United States, and Armenians living in California have enriched our state through their leadership and contribution in business, agriculture, academia, government, and the arts; and
11. WHEREAS: California State University, Northridge has a significant Armenian student population, many of whom have family members who experienced first-hand the horror and evil of the Armenian Genocide and the ongoing denial of the Armenian Genocide; and
12. WHEREAS: Every student and person, regardless of ethnicity or national origin, should be made aware of and educated about the Armenian Genocide so that it and other state-sanctioned forms of ethnic cleansing may never happen again; and

13. WHEREAS: The Associated Students of California State University, Northridge deplores the persistent, ongoing efforts by any person in this country or abroad, to deny the historical fact of the Armenian Genocide; and
14. WHEREAS: This resolution reconfirms and expands on the resolutions passed by the Associated Students Senate in 1997 and 2005, therefore let it be
1. RESOLVED: That the Associated Students, Inc. hereby designates the month of April 2015 as a “Month of Commemoration for the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide of 1915;” and let it be further
2. RESOLVED: In addition to holding a ‘moment of silence’ at the senate meeting prior to April 24th each year, the Associated Students, Inc. will host a special presentation in collaboration with the Armenian Student Association and Armenian Studies Department to educate all Senators and Cabinet members about the Armenian Genocide and that year’s commemorative events from now and in the years to come; and let it be further
3. RESOLVED: On the date of the special presentation, Associated Students, Inc. will conduct a tradition of the rose ceremony in memory of the Armenian Genocide victims, whose descendants play an integral role in today’s CSUN community; and let it be further
4. RESOLVED: That the Associated Students, Inc. commends its conscientious educators who teach about human rights and genocide; and let it be further
5. RESOLVED: The Associated Students, Inc. hereby calls on the President of the United States to work toward equitable, constructive, stable, and durable Armenian-Turkish relations based upon the Republic of Turkey's full acknowledgment, with reparations, of the facts and ongoing consequences of the Armenian Genocide, and a fair, just, and comprehensive international resolution of this crime against humanity; and let it be finally
6. RESOLVED: That copies of this resolution be distributed widely, including but not limited to the following:
- Barack Obama, President, United States of America

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS



- Armenian Embassy
- Turkish Embassy
- CSU Board of Trustees
- U.S. / CA Department of Education
- Aram Hamparian, Executive Director, Armenian National Committee of America
- Miles Nevin, Executive Director, California State Student Association
- Meredith Vivian, Assistant Executive Director and Chief Governmental Officer, California State Student Association
- Dianne Harrison, President, CSUN
- Harold Hellenbrand, Provost & Vice President of Academic Affairs
- William Watkins, Vice President of Student Affairs & Dean of Students
- Adam Swenson, President, Faculty Senate
- Vahram Shemassian, Chair, Armenian Studies Department
- Armenian Student Association
- Alpha Gamma Alpha Armenian Sorority
- Alpha Epsilon Omega Armenian Fraternity
- The Daily News
- The Sundial
- CSUN Today

Tiffany Zaich
President, 2014-2015

Talar Alexanian
Vice President, 2014-2015