

**As Introduced**

**131st General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2015-2016**

**H. C. R. No. 16**

**Representatives Vitale, Brinkman**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Hood, Becker, Brenner, Buchy, Derickson, Kraus,  
Retherford, Roegner, Romanchuk, Terhar, Zeltwanger**

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**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

To urge the President and Congress of the United 1  
States to take immediate and decisive action 2  
against the genocide being perpetrated by radical 3  
Islamists, to declare that silence in the face of 4  
evil is itself evil, to urge Ohioans to support 5  
reputable charities that are caring for those 6  
effected by the genocide, and to encourage all to 7  
rise up in opposition to these atrocities. 8

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
OHIO (THE SENATE CONCURRING):**

WHEREAS, "Genocide" means acts committed with intent to 9  
destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or 10  
religious group; and 11

WHEREAS, One hundred years ago the Ottoman government 12  
committed the crime of genocide against Armenian, Greek, and 13  
Assyrian Christians, murdering and displacing as many as two 14  
million Armenians by 1923; and 15

WHEREAS, Fifteen years later the Nazis, recognizing that 16  
the extermination of middle eastern Christians went largely 17  
ignored and unpunished by other nations, committed genocide 18

against up to six million Jews and millions more Christians 19  
and others deemed unworthy; and 20

WHEREAS, The world has vowed "Never Again" to allow such 21  
atrocities to occur; and 22

WHEREAS, A new genocide is occurring right now around 23  
the world, perpetrated by radical Islamists against 24  
Christians who refuse to deny Jesus and convert to Islam, in 25  
Iraq, Syria, Libya, Nigeria, Kenya, and several other 26  
nations; and 27

WHEREAS, This current genocide, while focused primarily 28  
against Christians, is also targeting other religious sects, 29  
homosexuals, and fellow Muslims who are not considered 30  
"Muslim enough" because they refuse to join in barbaric acts 31  
against their own families, friends, and neighbors; and 32

WHEREAS, Christian businesses and churches are being 33  
destroyed, men are being crucified, beheaded, and burned 34  
alive, women are being murdered or trafficked into sexual 35  
slavery, and children are losing their parents, their 36  
innocence, and their lives; and 37

WHEREAS, The media and our federal government have been 38  
largely silent about the extermination of Christians from 39  
lands they have lived in for over 2,000 years; now therefore 40  
be it 41

RESOLVED, That we agree with Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 42  
martyred by the Nazis during World War II for his faith in 43  
Christ, and declare, in his words, that, "Silence in the face 44  
of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not 45  
to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act"; and be it 46  
further 47

RESOLVED, That we urge Ohioans to support reputable 48  
charities that are caring for the displaced, the trafficked, 49

the orphans, the widows, and all who have lost livelihoods 50  
and loved ones; and be it further 51

RESOLVED, That we encourage the President of the United 52  
States and Congress, our churches, and the American people to 53  
rise up in opposition to these atrocities and provide, as 54  
individuals, prayers and assistance to our fellow Christians 55  
and all the men, women, and children whose lives have been 56  
decimated; and be it further 57

RESOLVED, That we urge the President of the United 58  
States and Congress to take immediate and decisive action 59  
against the genocide; and be it further 60

RESOLVED, That this resolution be spread upon the pages 61  
of the journal; and be it further 62

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 63  
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the 64  
President of the United States, to the Speaker and Clerk of 65  
the United States House of Representatives, to the President 66  
Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, to the 67  
members of the Ohio Congressional delegation, and to the news 68  
media of Ohio. 69