

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF CONNECTICUT

RAISED BILL NO. 452

On behalf of the Armenian Genocide Commemoration Committee of Connecticut, I submit this statement in support of Raised Bill No. 452: An Act Concerning The Inclusion of Holocaust and Genocide Education and Awareness in the Social Studies Curriculum.

History has demonstrated that Holocaust and Genocide forgotten is Holocaust and Genocide condoned.

Beginning in 1915, through a program of mass killings, deportation and starvation, more than 1.5 million Armenians perished at the hand of the government in Ottoman Turkey. To this day, the government of Turkey refuses to acknowledge these atrocities. The passage of time has taught the world that failure to recognize and condemn such horrible actions emboldens others to commit similar acts in the future. Indeed, when Adolf Hitler was challenged in connection with his planned barbaric actions, he boldly asked who today remembers the Armenians?

Regrettably our schools do not have a mandated program of instruction teaching about such past atrocities. Holocaust and Genocide studies should be introduced into the mainstream curriculum so that all future generations will know its horrors in order to speak against and take action to prevent such future actions.

This Bill would be a critical step in creating greater awareness of the evils of the past killings. Only by truly recognizing the genesis and horrors of Holocaust and Genocide will their perpetuation be stopped in the future.

To ignore these past atrocities is to insure that they will continue.

Sincerely,

Jack Krikorian

Chairman

Armenian Genocide Commemoration Committee of Connecticut