

1 [Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day - April 24, 2019 - Urging Passage of United States
2 House Resolution No. 296 and Senate Resolution No. 150]

3 **Resolution declaring April 24, 2019, as Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day in the**
4 **City and County of San Francisco; and urging the San Francisco's representatives in**
5 **the United States House of Representatives and Senate to accord recognition through**
6 **the passage of House Resolution No. 296 and Senate Resolution No. 150.**

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8 WHEREAS, The Armenian people, living in their historic homeland of 4,000 years,
9 were subjected to severe persecution by the Turkish government of the Ottoman Empire
10 before and after the turn of the twentieth century, including widespread massacres, usurpation
11 of land and property, and destruction of cultural institutions and monuments during the period
12 from 1894 to 1896 and again in 1909; and

13 WHEREAS, The unspeakable horrors experienced by the Armenian people at the
14 hands of the Ottoman Turkish government culminated in 1915 in what is known by historians
15 as the first systematic genocide of the twentieth century; and

16 WHEREAS, The Ottoman Turkish authorities planned and implemented the atrocities
17 committed against the Armenian people from 1915 through 1923, resulting in the deaths of
18 1.5 million Armenian women, men and children, and the destruction or appropriation of all
19 their personal and community properties; and

20 WHEREAS, In response to the genocide and at the behest of President Woodrow
21 Wilson and the U.S. State Department, the Near East Relief Organization, the first
22 Congressionally-sanctioned American philanthropic effort created exclusively to aid the
23 Armenian people and other Christian minorities, was founded and provided unprecedented
24 relief, delivering more than \$117,000,000 of humanitarian assistance between 1915 and 1930,
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1 and saving approximately one million refugees, including 130,000 orphans of the genocide;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Raphael Lemkin, who coined the term “genocide” in 1944, and who was
4 the earliest proponent of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of
5 the Genocide, invoked the Armenian case as a definitive example of genocide in the twentieth
6 century; and

7 WHEREAS, Those citizens of Turkey who speak the truth about the Armenian
8 Genocide – such as assassinated human rights activist and journalist Hrant Dink – continue to
9 be silenced by violent means and/or imprisonment, in part due to Turkish law which
10 criminalizes any expression which is considered to be critical of Turkish identity; and

11 WHEREAS, By honoring the survivors and consistently remembering and condemning
12 the repeated atrocities committed against the Armenian people, as well as the persecution of
13 the Assyrian and Greek populations of the Ottoman Empire, we guard against the repetition of
14 genocide; and

15 WHEREAS, California has become home to the largest and most active population of
16 Armenians in the United States, and those citizens have enriched our state through leadership
17 in the fields of academia, medicine, business, agriculture, government and the arts and are
18 proud and patriotic practitioners of American citizenship; and

19 WHEREAS, San Francisco Armenian-Americans are predominantly descendants of the
20 few remaining survivors of the Genocide; and

21 WHEREAS, San Francisco is proud to join the Armenian-American community in its
22 commemoration of the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in an effort to educate others
23 about the tragic loss of life, land, and human rights of the Armenian people and the crime of
24 genocide committed against them; now, therefore, be it

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1 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
2 hereby declares April 24, 2019 as Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day in the City and
3 County of San Francisco; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges San
5 Francisco's elected representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate to
6 accord recognition of the Armenian Genocide through passage of House Resolution 296 and
7 Senate Resolution 150; and, be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the San
9 Francisco Board of Education to reaffirm its commitment to teaching about the Armenian
10 Genocide in San Francisco Schools as indicated in the California State Board of Education's
11 History Social Sciences framework and standards, by communicating this intention to its high
12 school Social Studies and English Language Arts educators, and by offering appropriate
13 professional development training and instructional resources on the subject to social studies
14 and English language arts educators; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
16 Francisco directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies of this resolution to the Offices of
17 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi, United States House of
18 Representative Jackie Speier, United States Senator Kamala Harris, United States Senator
19 Dianne Feinstein, and San Francisco Board of Education, respectively, upon passage.

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