

1 [Urging Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Continue to Support and Immediately Schedule a Vote on
2 HR 106, Which Reaffirms the Proper Recognition of the Armenian Genocide]

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4 **Resolution urging Speaker Nancy Pelosi to continue to support and immediately**
5 **schedule a vote on House Resolution 106, which reaffirms the U.S. record of Armenian**
6 **Genocide.**

7 WHEREAS, in 1915 the Ottoman Turkish government began its genocide against
8 Armenians; and,

9 WHEREAS, by 1923, 1.5 million Armenians, a majority of Armenians who were living in
10 the Ottoman Empire, had been killed as a result of this genocide, and the survivors were
11 permanently displaced from their homeland, having had most of their personal and communal
12 properties stolen by the government and individuals complicit in the genocide; and,

13 WHEREAS, to this day, these historical facts have been denied by successive Turkish
14 governments, thereby continuing its hostility and posing an existential threat towards Armenia;
15 and,

16 WHEREAS, the denial of this genocide set a precedent and contributed to the
17 perpetration of later genocides throughout the 20th Century, including the Holocaust, during
18 which Adolf Hitler was quoted before the Nazi invasion of Poland as having asked "Who today
19 remembers the annihilation of the Armenians?"; and,

20 WHEREAS, the Turkish government continues to deny the Armenian Genocide, and
21 recently enacted Article 301 of the Turkish Criminal Code, which suppresses free speech and
22 prohibits any discussion of the Armenian Genocide; and,

1 WHEREAS, the official Turkish policy as embodied by Article 301 led to the
2 prosecution of Nobel Laureate Orhan Pamuk, and to the January 19, 2007 assassination of
3 Armenian-Turkish journalist Hrant Dink; and,

4 WHEREAS, the atmosphere of denial fostered by the government led to the
5 assassination of Hrant Dink, and the Turkish government has continued to persecute citizens
6 for expressing themselves by prosecuting others, including Hrant Dink's successors at Agos
7 newspaper under the draconian Article 301; and,

8 WHEREAS, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors has adopted resolutions on an
9 annual basis for many years, declaring April 24 as Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day;
10 and,

11 WHEREAS, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors maintains that the proper
12 recognition of the crime of genocide and other crimes against humanity should never be
13 sacrificed for perceived political benefits; and,

14 WHEREAS, Mayor Gavin Newsom wrote a letter to Speaker Pelosi, urging her to
15 support House Resolution 106; and,

16 WHEREAS, by joining our voices against the deniers of the Armenian Genocide, we
17 are able to guard against the occurrence of such genocide in the future; and,

18 WHEREAS, House Resolution 106 has overwhelming support in the United States
19 House of Representatives, as demonstrated by more than 200 co-sponsors, and was recently
20 adopted by the House Foreign Affairs Committee; and,

21 WHEREAS, Speaker Pelosi has supported similar legislation regarding proper
22 acknowledgment of the Armenian Genocide throughout her 20 year tenure as a member of
23 Congress and reiterated her support for Armenian Genocide recognition immediately prior to
24 the 2006 elections; now, therefore, be it
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1 RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors calls upon Speaker Nancy
2 Pelosi to reflect the will of the people of San Francisco, and persevere in her principled
3 position of reaffirming the Armenian Genocide by supporting and immediately scheduling a
4 vote for House Resolution 106; and, be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board is directed to transmit this
6 resolution to the Office of Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

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