

# State of South Dakota

NINETY-FIRST SESSION  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2016

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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1014

Introduced by: Representatives Craig, Anderson, Bolin, Brunner, Campbell, DiSanto, Feickert, Gosch, Greenfield (Lana), Haggar (Don), Haugaard, Heinemann (Leslie), Holmes, Hunt, Klumb, Langer, Latterell, Marty, May, McCleerey, Munsterman, Partridge, Peterson (Kent), Qualm, Rasmussen, Russell, Schoenfish, Stalzer, Tulson, Verchio, Werner, Westra, Wiik, and Zikmund and Senators Haggar (Jenna), Curd, Greenfield (Brock), Heineman (Phyllis), Holien, Jensen (Phil), Monroe, Novstrup (David), Olson, and Van Gerpen

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Calling for the United States to save Christians from  
2 persecution and genocide.

3 WHEREAS, Christians and Yazidis are targets of genocide by ISIS in Iraq, Syria, and Libya  
4 and are targets for persecution in many other parts of the world; and

5 WHEREAS, Christians throughout the world are persecuted for practicing their faith; and

6 WHEREAS, Christians, Jews, and those of other faiths are being personally attacked,  
7 kidnapped, injured, enslaved, and killed in large numbers not seen since the Middle Ages; and

8 WHEREAS, Christians and other faiths are being forcibly removed from their ancestral  
9 homelands which they have occupied since the birth of Christ; and

10 WHEREAS, Christian churches are attacked, burned, ransacked, and destroyed throughout  
11 the world; and

12 WHEREAS, such destruction to Christians and people of other faiths is taking place in



1 Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and Europe; and

2 WHEREAS, former Secretary of State Hilary Clinton and President Barack Obama have  
3 witnessed atrocities now reaching genocide status against Christians and other faiths which have  
4 dramatically increased under their terms of office; and

5 WHEREAS, Secretary Clinton and President Obama have failed to ensure the appropriate  
6 refugee status for victims of genocide:

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-  
8 First Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature  
9 recognizes that Christians and Yazidis in Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, Iran, and Libya are targets of  
10 persecution and encourages other nations to likewise recognize the ongoing threat of genocide  
11 to these people; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such persecution of Christians as targets of genocide  
13 who are seeking admission to the United States as immigrants or refugees should be given  
14 priority and expedited refugee processing; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the persecution of Christians and Yazidis in Iraq, Syria,  
16 Pakistan, Iran, and Libya constitutes an unforeseen emergency refugee situation, and the  
17 admission of such persecuted individuals in response to that situation is of grave humanitarian  
18 concern; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the secretary of Homeland Security shall provide for  
20 the expedited processing of the visas for such Christians and Yazidis and shall ensure that such  
21 applications receive first priority among applications for refugee immigration status; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature supports H.R. 4017 which would  
23 provide emergency admission of refugees and immigrants to persecuted Christians and Yazidis;  
24 and

1       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the chief clerk of the House of Representatives prepare  
2       and forward appropriate copies of this resolution to the President of the United States of  
3       America, the speaker and clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and the president  
4       and secretary of the United States Senate.