

SR-62

Submitted on: 4/16/2024 3:26:14 PM

Testimony for TCA on 4/19/2024 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Blair	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

You've got to be kidding! Wasting time on this while genocide of the Palestinians is being committed by Israel NOW with immoral support from Biden and Hawaii's Congressional! Utterly shameful!

SR-62

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 5:57:28 PM

Testimony for TCA on 4/19/2024 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikos Leverenz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and TCA Committee Members:

I write in support of SR 62, which acknowledges the genocide committed by Ottoman Turkey against Assyrians.

In 2021, [President Biden issued a statement acknowledging the systematic extermination of 1.5 million Armenians by Ottoman Turkey on Armenian Remembrance Day:](#)

"Beginning on April 24, 1915, with the arrest of Armenian intellectuals and community leaders in Constantinople by Ottoman authorities, one and a half million Armenians were deported, massacred, or marched to their deaths in a campaign of extermination.... Armenian immigrants have enriched the United States in countless ways, but they have never forgotten the tragic history that brought so many of their ancestors to our shores. We honor their story. We see that pain. We affirm the history. We do this not to cast blame but to ensure that what happened is never repeated."

An estimated 750,000 Assyrians and 1 million Greeks were also slaughtered during this time frame as well.

[As Secretary of State Anthony Blinken stated](#) at the outset of the Biden Administration, "The United States is committed to a world in which human rights are protected, their defenders are celebrated, and those who commit human rights abuses are held accountable."

The U.S. should also endeavor to (1) implement restorative practices that acknowledge the injuries unleashed upon North America's indigenous and enslaved peoples, (2) provide adequate redress for those injuries, and (3) substantively address ongoing human rights deficiencies within its own borders, [including those recently articulated by the United Nations Human Rights Committee regarding the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.](#)

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.