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(Original Signature of Member)

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES.

Condemning the anti-Christian violence that has occurred in Iraq and has forced Iraqi Christians to flee their homes and communities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. ACKERMAN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Condemning the anti-Christian violence that has occurred in Iraq and has forced Iraqi Christians to flee their homes and communities.

Whereas Iraq has been home to a native Christian population since the first century A.D.;

Whereas the Iraqi Christian community includes a diversity of churches and numbered as many as 1,000,000 in the early 1990s before the first Persian Gulf War;

Whereas Iraqi Christians have historically suffered from official discrimination, periods of persecution, and even massacres;

Whereas since 2003, Iraqi Christians have been particularly targeted by al Qaeda in Mesopotamia and other violent Islamist militants for abduction, torture, bombings, and murder;

Whereas Iraqi churches have been deliberately attacked in a wave of anti-Christian animus;

Whereas the Iraqi Christian population has been decimated, with Iraqi Christians seeking refuge in other countries or in safer areas of Iraq;

Whereas Iraqi Christians are entitled to the protection of their government to be secure in their homes, schools, and places of worship; and

Whereas all people are entitled to absolute freedom of conscience with regard to their religious beliefs or lack thereof: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) condemns in the strongest terms the anti-
3 Christian violence that has occurred in Iraq and has
4 forced Iraqi Christians to flee their homes and com-
5 munities;

6 (2) calls on the Government of Iraq to enhance
7 its efforts to guarantee the protection and survival
8 in place of the vulnerable Iraqi Christian population
9 and all other Iraqi religious minorities; and

10 (3) urges the President and the Secretary of
11 State to make the protection of vulnerable minority
12 groups in Iraq, including Iraqi Christians, a priority
13 in their discussions with Iraqi leaders, and a central

1 element in United States efforts on the ground in
2 Iraq.