

By Senator Haridopolos

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Senate Resolution

A resolution commending the people of Cyprus for their continued efforts toward a just resolution of the Cyprus problem and supporting the reunification of Cyprus.

WHEREAS, Florida first welcomed immigrants from Cyprus in the early part of the 20th century, and

WHEREAS, Cypriot Americans thereafter settled in communities around the metropolitan areas of Tampa and Miami and throughout this state, and

WHEREAS, today Cypriot Americans are contributing and prospering in business, in academia, and in various professions in this state and across the United States, and

WHEREAS, Cyprus itself has been forcibly divided for more than 33 years by the Turkish invasion and subsequent occupation of the island since 1974, and

WHEREAS, the United States has expressed consistent support for the reunification of Cyprus based on the rule of law and has encouraged efforts toward a resolution that respects the rights of all Cypriots, and

WHEREAS, Cyprus has a long history of working cooperatively with the United States on issues of international defense and security and is a long-time strategic partner of the United States in the global war on terrorism, and

WHEREAS, Cyprus was the first European Union Member State to join President Bush's Proliferation Security Initiative, an important step to battling the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and

1           WHEREAS, Cyprus plays a critical role in the security  
2 of the Eastern Mediterranean and in July 2006 extended  
3 assistance to more than 14,000 Americans who transited to  
4 Cyprus from Lebanon, and

5           WHEREAS, Cyprus joined the European Union in May 2004,  
6 and its accession within the European Union is enlarging the  
7 scope of cooperation between Cyprus and the United States, and

8           WHEREAS, the accession of Cyprus can act as a catalyst  
9 for a just and lasting settlement of the Cyprus problem that  
10 is based on United Nations Resolutions and the values and  
11 principles on which the European Union is founded, and

12           WHEREAS, Cyprus has supported the European orientation  
13 of Turkey in its bid for European Union membership if Turkey  
14 abides by principles, values, and norms required of all  
15 countries seeking to join the European Union, and

16           WHEREAS, Cyprus is implementing a series of economic  
17 and other measures that will benefit the Turkish Cypriots  
18 living in the northern occupied territory of the country and,  
19 as a result, has more than doubled the per capita income of  
20 the Turkish Cypriot community to approximately \$11,000, and

21           WHEREAS, since the partial lifting of the restrictions  
22 along the cease-fire line, there have been more than 12  
23 million incident-free crossings, and

24           WHEREAS, a lasting, just, peaceful, and mutually  
25 agreed-upon solution to the Cyprus problem would greatly  
26 benefit the security and the political, economic, and social  
27 well-being of all Cypriots, as well as contribute to improved  
28 relations between Greece and Turkey, and would serve the  
29 United States' interests in the region, and

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1           WHEREAS, there has long been a strong friendship  
2 between the residents of this state and the people of Cyprus,  
3 NOW, THEREFORE,

4  
5 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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7           That the Senate commends the people of Cyprus for their  
8 continued efforts in search of a just resolution to the Cyprus  
9 problem and supports the reunification of Cyprus while fully  
10 respecting the government of the Republic of Cyprus.

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