



HR0479

LRB100 13039 MST 27365 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The United States was built upon the premise and promise of religious tolerance, a principle enshrined in the First Amendment guarantee of free exercise of religion; and

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WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has historically welcomed newcomers from all nations and of all faith traditions, and has historically benefited from the diversity these newcomers bring; and

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WHEREAS, The most recent federal election campaign featured rhetoric and discussion of policy proposals hostile to certain nationality and religious groups, including specifically a possible registry of Muslim Americans; and

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WHEREAS, Reported attacks on Muslim, Arab, and South Asian Americans and other incidents of discrimination, including in housing, education, and employment, have increased sharply during the past two years and in particular since the 2016 elections; and

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WHEREAS, Muslim youths in particular face barriers to safely expressing their religion in school, with young Muslim women being bullied for wearing the hijab or niqab; and

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1           WHEREAS, Muslim, Arab, and South Asian Americans have  
2           endured discriminatory policies such as the National Security  
3           Entry-Exit Registration System (NSEERS), which targeted men  
4           from 24 predominantly Muslim countries in the immediate  
5           aftermath of the 9-11 attacks; and

6           WHEREAS, The current federal administration has issued two  
7           executive orders attempting to impose restrictions on  
8           individuals from seven (later six) Muslim majority countries  
9           seeking to enter the United States, restrictions that federal  
10          courts have enjoined in due to their discriminatory intent; and

11          WHEREAS, Initiatives such as NSEERS, the travel  
12          restrictions, and a potential Muslim registry recall past  
13          discriminatory initiatives such as the internment of 120,000  
14          Americans of Japanese descent during World War II, for which  
15          our nation has formally apologized; and

16          WHEREAS, Our State should continue to welcome all  
17          nationality and religious groups and should stand in opposition  
18          to any attempts to discriminate against Arab and Muslim  
19          Americans or any other group based on national origin or  
20          religion; therefore, be it

21          RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
22          HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that it is

1 the sense of this body that no State or local government agency  
2 or official should expend any time, facilities, equipment,  
3 information, or other resources of the agency or official to  
4 facilitate the creation, publication, or maintenance of or any  
5 participation in any federal program with the purpose of  
6 registering or maintaining a database of individuals present in  
7 the United States based on their race, color, ancestry,  
8 national origin, or religion; and be it further

9       RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
10 delivered to the President and Vice-President of the United  
11 States, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States  
12 Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leaders of the United States  
13 House of Representatives, and all members of the Illinois  
14 Congressional Delegation.