



HR0481

LRB100 13040 MST 27366 r

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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

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WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has historically welcomed
6 newcomers from all nations and of all faith traditions, and has
7 historically benefited from the diversity these newcomers
8 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

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, THE SENATE

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

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