



SR0225

LRB103 32097 MST 61102 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The United States is enriched by the diversity of  
3 its residents who have cultivated a climate of social  
4 tolerance and intellectual pluralism that has sustained the  
5 nation throughout its history; and

6           WHEREAS, The Sikh community, which originated in Punjab,  
7 India and began immigrating into the United States over 100  
8 years ago, has played an important role in developing Illinois  
9 and the United States; and

10           WHEREAS, Sikhism is the world's fifth-largest religion,  
11 with nearly 30,000,000 adherents, roughly 1,000,000 of whom  
12 call the United States home; and

13           WHEREAS, Founded by Guru Nanak in the Punjab region of  
14 India during the 15th century, the Sikh spiritual tradition is  
15 rooted in the belief that every person is equal, regardless of  
16 race, gender, sex, or creed; and

17           WHEREAS, Believing that every person shares a connection  
18 through the idea of oneness, the Sikh community emerged as a  
19 force for social justice by encouraging female participation  
20 in religious services and initiating interfaith efforts to  
21 combat oppression and injustice; and

1           WHEREAS, The Sikh religion's central principles of  
2 truthful living, service to humanity, and devotion to the  
3 divine being that all faiths worship inspire its believers to  
4 create inclusive communities where all are respected; and

5           WHEREAS, Through leading charitable events, the Sikh  
6 community embodies the sense of public service that underlies  
7 the founding principles of the United States; and

8           WHEREAS, The Sikh community has played an important role  
9 in supporting and enriching the social fabric of the State;  
10 and

11           WHEREAS, Sikhs celebrate Vaisakhi, also known as Baisakhi,  
12 on the first day of the month of Vaisakhi in the Sikh calendar,  
13 which typically falls on April 14; and

14           WHEREAS, Vaisakhi is a special occasion in which Sikhs  
15 remember the founding in 1699 of the Order of Khalsa, a  
16 fellowship of devout saint-soldier Sikhs, by the 10th Sikh  
17 Guru to fight tyranny and oppression, which played an  
18 important role in shaping the religion's history and identity;  
19 and

20           WHEREAS, It is altogether fitting and proper to celebrate

1 the day of Vaisakhi alongside Sikhs throughout the world and  
2 to honor the lasting contributions made by the Sikh community  
3 to the State of Illinois and the United States; therefore, be  
4 it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL  
6 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare the month of  
7 April 2023 as "Sikh Heritage Month" in the State of Illinois to  
8 bring attention to those of the Sikh religion and celebrate  
9 their contributions to the State of Illinois.