

## House Resolution

**No. 59**

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### Introduced by Assembly Member Quirk

June 30, 2016

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House Resolution No. 59—Relative to Muslim Appreciation and Awareness Month.

1 WHEREAS, Freedom of religion holds distinction as a cherished  
2 right and a foundational value upon which the laws and ethics of  
3 the United States are based; and

4 WHEREAS, Enriched by the unparalleled diversity of its  
5 residents, the State of California takes great pride in supporting  
6 individual religious freedoms and is strengthened by the many  
7 varied religious, political, and cultural traditions of its diverse  
8 population, including those Americans who practice Islam; and

9 WHEREAS, The history of Islam in this country dates back to  
10 before its founding, originating with African slaves who brought  
11 their Muslim beliefs with them to the Americas and who later  
12 contributed in numerous ways to the founding of the nation, and  
13 there are today millions of Muslim Americans, both immigrant  
14 and native-born, of diverse backgrounds and beliefs; and

15 WHEREAS, The United States benefits greatly from the  
16 expertise, patriotism, and humanitarianism of Muslim Americans,  
17 who represent 10 percent of America’s physicians, helping to heal  
18 hundreds of thousands of Americans each year; who have long  
19 distinguished themselves as courageous and dedicated members  
20 of the United States Armed Forces, fighting and sacrificing in  
21 every major war from the American Revolutionary War to  
22 present-day conflicts; and who regularly contribute to the health  
23 and vitality of their communities, giving food to the hungry,

1 sheltering the needy, and providing inexpensive or free health  
2 services, among other community services; and

3 WHEREAS, The earliest Muslim immigrants to California  
4 mostly worked on farms and made significant contributions to  
5 early agricultural efforts, and since the abolition of the national  
6 quota on immigration in 1965 by the passage of the Hart-Celler  
7 Act, more and more Muslims have migrated to California, with  
8 approximately one million Muslim Americans currently residing  
9 in communities throughout the state, the highest number in the  
10 United States; and

11 WHEREAS, Similarly, there are currently more than 240  
12 mosques in California, more than any other state in the nation, and  
13 the people of California and the greater United States benefit from  
14 the several large Muslim religious, educational, charitable,  
15 advocacy, and empowerment organizations that operate within the  
16 state, as well as from the countless prominent Muslim community  
17 leaders who distinguish themselves professionally as business  
18 owners, law professionals, doctors, engineers, teachers, and  
19 farmers, among numerous other valued professions; and

20 WHEREAS, Although the majority of Muslim Americans within  
21 California and throughout the nation strive to promote peace and  
22 understanding between all faiths, identities, and nationalities while  
23 upholding those values and principles that define the American  
24 people, they have nonetheless been forced to endure harassment,  
25 assault, and discrimination since the terrorist attack on September  
26 11, 2001, and during the year 2015 alone, there were approximately  
27 174 reported incidents of anti-Muslim violence and vandalism in  
28 the United States. It is therefore appropriate to acknowledge and  
29 promote awareness of the myriad invaluable contributions of  
30 Muslim Americans in California and across the country, and extend  
31 to them the respect and camaraderie every American deserves;  
32 now, therefore, be it

33 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, That the*  
34 *Assembly joins communities throughout the State of California*  
35 *in recognizing the month of August 2016 as Muslim Appreciation*  
36 *and Awareness Month, respectfully acknowledges the rich history*  
37 *and guiding virtues of Muslim Americans, and commends Muslim*  
38 *communities in California for the lasting positive impact they have*  
39 *made, and continue to make, toward the advancement of the state*  
40 *and the nation; and be it further*

- 1     *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 2     of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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