

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 1, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

House Resolution

No. 59

Introduced by Assembly Member Quirk

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Arambula, Atkins, Baker, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonilla, Bonta, Brown, Burke, Calderon, Chang, Chau, Chávez, Chiu, Chu, Cooley, Cooper, Daly, Dodd, Eggman, Frazier, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gray, Hadley, Holden, Irwin, Jones-Sawyer, Kim, Lackey, Levine, Lopez, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Mullin, Nazarian, Obernolte, O'Donnell, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Ting, Weber, Wilk, Williams, and Wood)

June 30, 2016

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

1 there are today millions of Muslim Americans, both immigrant
2 and native-born, of diverse backgrounds and beliefs; and

3 WHEREAS, The United States benefits greatly from the
4 expertise, patriotism, and humanitarianism of Muslim Americans,
5 who represent 10 percent of America's physicians, helping to heal
6 hundreds of thousands of Americans each year; who have long
7 distinguished themselves as courageous and dedicated members
8 of the United States Armed Forces, fighting and sacrificing in
9 every major war from the American Revolutionary War to
10 present-day conflicts; and who regularly contribute to the health
11 and vitality of their communities, giving food to the hungry,
12 sheltering the needy, and providing inexpensive or free health
13 services, among other community services; and

14 WHEREAS, The earliest Muslim immigrants to California
15 mostly worked on farms and made significant contributions to
16 early agricultural efforts, and since the abolition of the national
17 quota on immigration in 1965 by the passage of the Hart-Celler
18 Act, more and more Muslims have migrated to California, with
19 approximately one million Muslim Americans currently residing
20 in communities throughout the state, the highest number in the
21 United States; and

22 WHEREAS, Similarly, there are currently more than 240
23 mosques in California, more than any other state in the nation, and
24 the people of California and the greater United States benefit from
25 the several large Muslim religious, educational, charitable,
26 advocacy, and empowerment organizations that operate within the
27 state, as well as from the countless prominent Muslim community
28 leaders who distinguish themselves professionally as business
29 owners, law professionals, doctors, engineers, teachers, and
30 farmers, among numerous other valued professions; and

31 WHEREAS, Although the majority of Muslim Americans within
32 California and throughout the nation strive to promote peace and
33 understanding between all faiths, identities, and nationalities while
34 upholding those values and principles that define the American
35 people, they have nonetheless been forced to endure harassment,
36 assault, and discrimination since the terrorist attack on September
37 11, 2001, and during the year 2015 alone, there were approximately
38 174 reported incidents of anti-Muslim violence and vandalism in
39 the United States. It is therefore appropriate to acknowledge and
40 promote awareness of the myriad invaluable contributions of

1 Muslim Americans in California and across the country, and extend
2 to them the respect and camaraderie every American deserves;
3 now, therefore, be it

4 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, That the*
5 *Assembly joins communities throughout the State of California*
6 *in recognizing the month of August 2016 as Muslim Appreciation*
7 *and Awareness Month, respectfully acknowledges the rich history*
8 *and guiding virtues of Muslim Americans, and commends Muslim*
9 *communities in California for the lasting positive impact they have*
10 *made, and continue to make, toward the advancement of the state*
11 *and the nation; and be it further*

12 *Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies*
13 *of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.*