



Introduced Version

**HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. _____**

Introduced by: Kirchhofer, Bosma

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION recognizing and acknowledging
2 the significant contributions that American Sikhs have made
3 across the United States and to the State of Indiana on the
4 occasion of Vaisakhi as "National Sikh Day".

5 *Whereas, Sikhism is a monotheistic religion that was*
6 *founded over 500 years ago and believes in one omnipresent*
7 *God;*

8 *Whereas, Guru Nanak was the founder and first guru of*
9 *Sikhs;*

10 *Whereas, Baisakhi is an annual event celebrated in the*
11 *month of April in the Punjab region of India, and American*
12 *Sikhs celebrate Vaisakhi as "National Sikh Day";*

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1 *Whereas, Sikhism today has a following of over 30 million*
2 *people worldwide and is currently the fifth largest religion;*

3 *Whereas, Among other things, Sikhism preaches a message*
4 *of devotion, truthful living, equality of mankind, and social*
5 *justice;*

6 *Whereas, Key tenants of Sikhism include living the life of a*
7 *householder, earning an honest living, and avoiding worldly*
8 *temptations and sins;*

9 *Whereas, Sikhs believe that people of different races,*
10 *religion, or gender are all equal in the eyes of God and in the*
11 *full equality of all humans;*

12 *Whereas, There are nearly one million Sikhs living in the*
13 *United States and an estimated 10,000 Sikhs living in Indiana;*

14 *Whereas, The Sikh place of worship is known as Gurdwara,*
15 *and there are currently more than 20 Gurdwaras all over*
16 *Indiana;*

17 *Whereas, A hallmark of Sikh values and tradition is the*
18 *community kitchen, known as Langar; Langar is the term used*
19 *in the Sikh religion for the common kitchen where food is*
20 *served in all Gurdwaras to all the visitors, without distinction*
21 *of faith, religion, or background and always free;*

22 *Whereas, The initiated, baptized Sikhs are known as Khalsa;*

23 *Whereas, Khalsa was created in 1699 by the 10th and last*
24 *Guru, Gobind Singh;*

25 *Whereas, Khalsa is a fearless army of God; a saint soldier*
26 *who is always ready as a voluntary soldier to protect the weak*
27 *and helpless;*

28 *Whereas, Khalsa show their allegiance by the five Ks:*
29 *kangha, kara, kesh, kirpan, and kuccha. The most notable is*
30 *kesh, long uncut beard and hair covered by the turban which is*
31 *worn as a beacon of hope;*



1 *Whereas, Sikhs are one of the fastest growing business*
 2 *communities in Indiana;*

3 *Whereas, Indiana is home to about 3,500 Sikh-owned*
 4 *businesses, including gas stations, convenience stores,*
 5 *restaurants, commercial real estate, and trucking and*
 6 *transportation businesses;*

7 *Whereas, Sikhs in the United States pursue diverse*
 8 *professions and walks of life, making rich contributions to the*
 9 *economic vibrancy of the United States as farmers, engineers,*
 10 *doctors, scientists, and business owners;*

11 *Whereas, Sikhs continue to make strides toward securing*
 12 *religious liberty as patriotic members of the United States*
 13 *armed forces;*

14 *Whereas, Sikhs have served on local, state, and federal levels*
 15 *of government in the United States;*

16 *Whereas, Sikhs proved significant contributions to and*
 17 *continue to serve our country, our state, and our communities;*

18 *Whereas, The faithful service of the Sikh community to this*
 19 *state and the country merits appreciation as an integral thread*
 20 *in the fabric of American plurality; and*

21 *Whereas, It is fitting that the Indiana House of*
 22 *Representatives recognizes and acknowledges the significant*
 23 *contributions that American Sikhs have made across the United*
 24 *States, to the State of Indiana, and to the local communities on*
 25 *the great occasion of Vaisakhi as "National Sikh Day":*
 26 *Therefore,*

27 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the*
 28 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

29 SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representative
 30 recognizes and acknowledges the significant contributions that
 31 American Sikhs have made across the United States and to the
 32 State of Indiana on the great occasion of Vaisakhi as "National
 33 Sikh Day".



1 SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
2 Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to Gurinder
3 Singh Khalsa, founder and chairman of SikhsPAC.

