THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 333

Session of 2024

INTRODUCED BY HAMM, KAUFFMAN, LEADBETER, MENTZER, CONKLIN, M. MACKENZIE, ZIMMERMAN, PICKETT, STAMBAUGH, GLEIM, GREGORY, STRUZZI, E. NELSON, DIAMOND AND ARMANINI, MARCH 5, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 5, 2024

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing the month of April 2024 as "Faith Month" in Pennsylvania.
- 3 WHEREAS, The United States was born of the unanimous
- 4 declaration that we are "endowed by [our] Creator with certain
- 5 unalienable Rights," based on "the Laws of Nature and of
- 6 Nature's God," "appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world,"
- 7 and acknowledging our "reliance on the protection of divine
- 8 Providence"; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Religious freedom is known as America's first
- 10 freedom, as laid out in the Establishment Clause and the Free
- 11 Exercise Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution of
- 12 the United States; and
- 13 WHEREAS, The freedom of speech guaranteed by the First
- 14 Amendment to the Constitution of the United States also supports
- 15 America's unique focus on freedom of expression, including in
- 16 matters of faith; and
- 17 WHEREAS, The motto "In God We Trust" further emphasizes the

- 1 importance of faith in this nation's founding; and
- 2 WHEREAS, From our first president to our current president,
- 3 we have acknowledged America's faith; and
- 4 WHEREAS, President George Washington recognized "it is the
- 5 duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty
- 6 God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and
- 7 humbly to implore his protection and favor"; and
- 8 WHEREAS, President Joseph Biden acknowledged Thanksgiving as
- 9 a "time to reflect on our many blessings from God, this Nation,
- 10 and each other"; and
- 11 WHEREAS, America's Judeo-Christian founding promotes
- 12 religious diversity and tolerance; and
- 13 WHEREAS, Religious liberty serves to strengthen our country's
- 14 appreciation of all peoples, regardless of faith; and
- 15 WHEREAS, Eternal diligence is needed to preserve religious
- 16 freedom; and
- 17 WHEREAS, Attacks on religious liberty and people and faith
- 18 continue to plague this nation, with some religious charities
- 19 even being forced to betray the tenets of their faith in order
- 20 to participate in certain government programs; and
- 21 WHEREAS, Many seek to criminalize religious beliefs in
- 22 certain controversial areas; and
- 23 WHEREAS, Religious organizations in America have a rich
- 24 history of charitable engagement helping the sick, poor and
- 25 afflicted; therefore be it
- 26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
- 27 month of April 2024 as "Faith Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it
- 28 further
- 29 RESOLVED, That the month of April be known as "Faith Month"
- 30 as a way to reaffirm our commitment to the religious liberty

- 1 principles of our founding; and be it further
- 2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all
- 3 Americans to celebrate their faiths freely and openly, with
- 4 public displays and celebrations, including prayer and
- 5 expressions of thanksgiving during the month of April.