
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 629 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY COHEN, V. BROWN, KINSEY, McCARTER, O'BRIEN,
ROEBUCK, ROZZI, SCHLOSSBERG, THOMAS AND YOUNGBLOOD,
JANUARY 4, 2016

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 4, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the valuable contributions that people who are
2 Muslim or of Muslim descent make to society and opposing
3 efforts to single out Muslims for unfair treatment,
4 punishment or exclusion on the basis of religion.

5 WHEREAS, In the aftermath of at least 130 people murdered and
6 more than 350 people injured in the attacks carried out by
7 terrorists in Paris, France, and the murder of 14 people and
8 injury to at least 21 people in San Bernardino, California,
9 there has been widespread public discussion about banning all
10 Muslims from entering the United States, creating a registry of
11 Muslims in America and shutting down mosques; and

12 WHEREAS, These ideas demonstrate an appalling ignorance of
13 the principle of religious freedom on which Pennsylvania was
14 founded and which our country early on embedded in the First
15 Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

16 WHEREAS, The constitutional guarantee of religious freedom
17 protects members of all religions from transient public opinion
18 and shifting politics; and

1 WHEREAS, Religious freedom makes it possible for people to be
2 judged on the basis of individual characteristics, and not
3 solely as a member of a religious group; therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives support the
5 religious freedom of all Pennsylvanians and oppose efforts to
6 demonize and oppress any group of people; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
8 valuable contributions that people who are Muslim or of Muslim
9 descent make to our society on a daily basis and strongly oppose
10 any effort to single out Muslims for unfair treatment,
11 punishment or exclusion on the basis of religion; and be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to the
14 Governor and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.