
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 86 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY HAMM, FLICK, ROSSI, LEADBETER, M. MACKENZIE AND
KAUFFMAN, APRIL 25, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, APRIL 25, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of April 2023 as "Faith Month" in
2 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
18 importance of faith in this nation's founding; and

1 WHEREAS, From our first president to our current president,
2 we have acknowledged America's faith; and

3 WHEREAS, President George Washington recognized "it is the
4 duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty
5 God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and
6 humbly to implore his protection and favor"; and

7 WHEREAS, President Joseph Biden recently acknowledged
8 Thanksgiving as a "time to reflect on our many blessings from
9 God, this Nation, and each other"; and

10 WHEREAS, America's Judeo-Christian founding promotes
11 religious diversity and tolerance; and

12 WHEREAS, Eternal diligence is needed to preserve religious
13 freedom; and

14 WHEREAS, Attacks on religious liberty and people and faith
15 continue to plague this nation, with some religious charities
16 even being forced to betray the tenets of their faith in order
17 to participate in certain government programs; and

18 WHEREAS, Religious organizations in America have a rich
19 history of charitable engagement helping the sick, poor and
20 afflicted; and

21 WHEREAS, Many seek to criminalize religious beliefs in
22 certain controversial areas; and

23 WHEREAS, The fundamental right to freedom of religion has
24 resonated throughout the unique history of this Commonwealth;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania and one of the
27 first champions of expressive freedoms in the American colonies,
28 demonstrated how a free society could work and how individuals
29 of different races and religions could live together in liberty
30 and peace; and

1 WHEREAS, The principles of freedom that William Penn promoted
2 and adopted helped lay the framework for the First Amendment to
3 the Constitution of the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, Sections 3 and 4 of Article I of the Constitution of
5 Pennsylvania guarantee religious freedom and the liberty of
6 conscience within this Commonwealth; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
8 month of April 2023 as "Faith Month" in Pennsylvania as a way to
9 reaffirm the commitment to the religious liberty principles of
10 our country and this Commonwealth's founding; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That Pennsylvanians celebrate their faiths freely
12 and openly, with public displays and celebrations, including
13 prayer and expressions of thanksgiving during the month of
14 April.