

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 174

Supporting religious tolerance toward Muslims.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 5, 1999

Mr. BONIOR (for himself and Mr. DAVIS of Virginia) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Supporting religious tolerance toward Muslims.

Whereas the American Muslim community, comprised of approximately 5,000,000 people, is a vital part of our Nation, with more than 1,500 mosques, Islamic schools, and Islamic centers in neighborhoods across the United States;

Whereas Islam is one of the great Abrahamic faiths, whose significant contributions throughout history have advanced the fields of math, science, medicine, law, philosophy, art, and literature;

Whereas the United States is a secular nation, with an unprecedented commitment to religious tolerance and pluralism, where the rights, liberties, and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution are guaranteed to all citizens regardless of religious affiliation;

Whereas Muslims have been subjected, simply because of their faith, to acts of discrimination and harassment that all too often have led to hate-inspired violence, as was the case during the rush to judgment in the aftermath of the tragic Oklahoma City bombing;

Whereas discrimination against Muslims intimidates American Muslims and may prevent Muslims from freely expressing their opinions and exercising their religious beliefs as guaranteed by the first amendment to the Constitution;

Whereas American Muslims have regrettably been portrayed in a negative light in some discussions of policy issues such as issues relating to religious persecution abroad or fighting terrorism in the United States;

Whereas stereotypes and anti-Muslim rhetoric have also contributed to a backlash against Muslims in some neighborhoods across the United States; and

Whereas all persons in the United States who espouse and adhere to the values of the founders of our Nation should help in the fight against bias, bigotry, and intolerance in all their forms and from all their sources: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That—*

3 (1) Congress condemns anti-Muslim intolerance
4 and discrimination as wholly inconsistent with the
5 American values of religious tolerance and pluralism;

6 (2) while Congress respects and upholds the
7 right of individuals to free speech, Congress ac-

1 knowledges that individuals and organizations that
2 foster such intolerance create an atmosphere of ha-
3 tred and fear that divides the Nation;

4 (3) Congress resolves to uphold a level of polit-
5 ical discourse that does not involve making a scape-
6 goat of an entire religion or drawing political conclu-
7 sions on the basis of religious doctrine; and

8 (4) Congress recognizes the contributions of
9 American Muslims, who are followers of one of the
10 three major monotheistic religions of the world and
11 one of the fastest growing faiths in the United
12 States.

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