



SR0582

LRB100 13041 MST 27410 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The United States was built upon the premise and
3 promise of religious tolerance, a principle enshrined in the
4 First Amendment guarantee of free exercise of religion; and

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WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has historically welcomed
6 newcomers from all nations and of all faith traditions, and has
7 historically benefited from the diversity these newcomers
8 bring; and

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WHEREAS, The most recent federal election campaign
10 featured rhetoric and discussion of policy proposals hostile to
11 certain nationality and religious groups, including
12 specifically a possible registry of Muslim Americans; and

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WHEREAS, Reported attacks on Muslim, Arab, and South Asian
14 Americans and other incidents of discrimination, including in
15 housing, education, and employment, have increased sharply
16 during the past two years and in particular since the 2016
17 elections; and

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WHEREAS, Muslim youths in particular face barriers to
19 safely expressing their religion in school, with young Muslim
20 women being bullied for wearing the hijab or niqab; and

1 WHEREAS, Muslim, Arab, and South Asian Americans have
2 endured discriminatory policies such as the National Security
3 Entry-Exit Registration System (NSEERS), which targeted men
4 from 24 predominantly Muslim countries in the immediate
5 aftermath of the 9-11 attacks; and

6 WHEREAS, The current federal administration has issued two
7 executive orders attempting to impose restrictions on
8 individuals from seven (later six) Muslim majority countries
9 seeking to enter the United States, restrictions that federal
10 courts have enjoined in part due to their discriminatory
11 intent; and

12 WHEREAS, Initiatives such as NSEERS, the travel
13 restrictions, and a potential Muslim registry recall past
14 discriminatory initiatives such as the internment of 120,000
15 Americans of Japanese descent during World War II, for which
16 our nation has formally apologized; and

17 WHEREAS, Our State should continue to welcome all
18 nationality and religious groups and should stand in opposition
19 to any attempts to discriminate against Arab, South Asian, and
20 Muslim Americans or any other group based on national origin or
21 religion; therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that it is the sense of this
2 body that no State or local government agency or official
3 should expend any time, facilities, equipment, information, or
4 other resources of the agency or official to facilitate the
5 creation, publication, or maintenance of or any participation
6 in any federal program with the purpose of registering or
7 maintaining a database of individuals present in the United
8 States based on their race, color, ancestry, national origin,
9 or religion; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
11 delivered to the President and Vice-President of the United
12 States, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States
13 Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leaders of the United States
14 House of Representatives, and all members of the Illinois
15 Congressional Delegation.