



SR0209

LRB101 11566 ALS 57495 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Sikhs have been living in the United States for
3 more than 100 years, and during the early 20th century,
4 thousands of Sikh Americans worked on farms, in lumber mills
5 and mines, and on the Oregon, Pacific, and Eastern Railroads;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, The Sikhs constitute a well-established,
8 religious, social, and ethnic group among the people who have
9 immigrated to Illinois and to the United States of America; and

10 WHEREAS, Sikh immigrants have added greatly, both
11 culturally and economically, to the State of Illinois and the
12 United States while simultaneously continuing to maintain
13 their own culture and traditions; and

14 WHEREAS, Sikh Americans pursue diverse professions and
15 make rich contributions to the social, cultural, and economic
16 vibrancy of the State of Illinois and the United States,
17 including serving in the United States Armed Forces and
18 offering significant contributions in agriculture, information
19 technology, small businesses, the hotel industry, trucking,
20 medicine, and technology; and

21 WHEREAS, Sikhism is the fifth-largest religion in the

1 world; today, there are more than 30 million Sikhs worldwide,
2 an estimated 500,000 Sikh Americans and 25,000 in the State of
3 Illinois; and

4 WHEREAS, Sikh Americans have distinguished themselves by
5 fostering respect among all people through faith and service;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is committed to the value of
8 religious diversity, tolerance grounded in the First Amendment
9 principles, a culture of mutual understanding, the diminution
10 of violence, and educating citizens about the world's
11 religions; and

12 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois seeks to further the
13 diversity of its community and afford all residents the
14 opportunity to better understand, recognize, and appreciate
15 the rich history and shared experiences of Sikh Americans; and

16 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois honors the many ways that
17 Sikh Americans have influenced American History, achievement,
18 culture, and innovation; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we designate the month
21 of April 2019 as Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month in

1 Illinois; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
3 delivered to the Sikh Religious Society.