



HR1193

LRB097 22422 GRL 71182 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, A devastating act of violence occurred at the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin on August 5, 2012, in Oak Creek, Wisconsin; and

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WHEREAS, Members of the American Sikh community have a long-standing commitment to the United States, demonstrated by their record of military heroism, devotion to public service, and contribution to the economic activity and prosperity of this country; and

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WHEREAS, This recent massacre in Wisconsin, a recent fire that destroyed a mosque in Joplin, Missouri, and the aftermath of the tragic events of September 11, 2001, have caused Sikhs, Muslims, South Asian Americans, Arab Americans, and other communities in the Midwest and the country at large to live under an unfair burden of vulnerability; and

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WHEREAS, There has been a growth in rhetorical attacks, harassment, intimidation, bullying, and extreme violence against these communities; and

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WHEREAS, A crime like this should be condemned, regardless of what ethnic or religious group is targeted; and

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1 WHEREAS, In the United States and in Illinois, the
2 principles of tolerance, religious freedom, trust, and safety
3 are vital to the sense of community shared by all people; and

4 WHEREAS, The fundamental American values of justice and
5 equality for all are vital foundations of who we are as a
6 people, while xenophobia, racism, anti-religious rhetoric, and
7 extreme violence have no place in our society; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
9 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
10 we encourage tolerance and the prevention of future violence by
11 promoting education about diverse cultures and religions,
12 grounded in the belief that this makes us strong as a community
13 and a nation; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That we are grateful to the first responders,
15 congregants, and the local community in Wisconsin who helped to
16 save lives and prevent even greater loss; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That we denounce any and all hate-fueled violence
18 and bigotry in public and political discourse and encourage
19 civic engagement and participation among all Illinois
20 residents, including immigrants and minorities.