



Council on American-Islamic Relations
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In Support of a Congressional Resolution Recognizing the Contributions of Our Nation's Muslim Citizens

Our nation continues to benefit from American Muslims whose faith motivates them to feed the hungry, shelter the needy, offer free health care services, and stand for justice. It is crucial Congress honors these contributions at a time when the American identity and rights of Muslims are under attack.

Request to Congress

CAIR is asking members of Congress to champion a resolution that recognizes the contributions of American Muslims. Congress should adopt such a resolution, parallel to efforts undertaken in several state legislatures and city councils across the country. For more information, please contact CAIR Director of Government Affairs Robert McCaw at rmccaw@cair.com.

Reasons to Support

- There are millions of American Muslims in the United States, a community made up of many diverse viewpoints and backgrounds, both immigrant and native born. Congress should recognize the important contributions Muslims make to our nation, from academia, to medicine, engineering, the arts, sports, politics, and more.
- The United States is experiencing an unprecedented nationwide increase in acts of bigotry targeting American Muslims and their houses of worship, more than 2543 incidents reported in the first two quarters of 2017, a surge of 57 percent from the year prior.^{1 2 3} Adopting such a resolution reaffirms that Muslim citizens are welcomed and their contributions appreciated.
- While often not recognized, up to 15 percent of African slaves brought to the Americas, later known as the United States, were Muslim and their contributions to the founding of our nation were innumerable.⁴
- A significant number of American physicians are Muslim.⁵ More than 15,000 of those doctors come from the seven-majority-Muslim countries included in the travel ban and handle about 14 million patient visits a year.^{6 7}
- Muslims have long served in the nation's armed forces and fought in all major United States wars, spanning from the American Revolutionary War to modern conflicts today, with some Muslims making the ultimate sacrifice in combat.⁸
- Such a resolution would honor the work of famed American Muslims like Fazlur Rahman Khan, who designed the Sears Tower and 100-story John Hancock Center; American Olympian athletes like Muhammad Ali and Ibtihaj Muhammad; and entrepreneurs like hair and spa care magnate Farouk Shami and Chobani Greek Yogurt founder, Chairman and CEO Hamsi Ulukaya. That is just the shortest of what is a very long list of contributors.

¹ Council on American Islamic Relations. "2017 Civil Rights Report: The Empowerment of Hate."

² Council on American Islamic Relations. "Civil Rights Data Quarter Two Update: Anti-Muslim Bias Incidents April-June 2017."

³ Council on American Islamic Relations. "Anti-Muslim Bias Incidents 2017 Quarter One Update."

⁴ McCloud, A. 2000. *Journal of American Academy of Religion*, 68(4), 879-883

⁵ 2015. "American Muslims: Fears vs. Facts." *The Bridge initiative*.

⁶ Freyer, F. J. 2017. "Doctors from banned countries serve millions of Americans, analysis finds." *The Boston Globe*.

⁷ McNeil, D. G. Jr. 2017. "Trump's Travel Ban, Aimed at Terrorists, Has Blocked Doctors." *The New York Times*.

⁸ Considine, C. 2015. "Saluting Muslim American Patriots." *Huffington Post*.