

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 74

Reps. Puri, Camilleri, Steckloff, Morse, Aiyash, Rabhi, Sowerby, Hammoud, Manoogian, Young, Anthony, Koleszar, Bolden, Weiss, Sneller, Thanedar, Hood, Pohutsky, Peterson, Tyrone Carter, Haadsma, Hope, Ellison, Brixie, Neeley, Witwer, Brabec, Cherry, Garza, Stone, Lasinski, Kuppa, Hertel, O'Neal, Whitsett, Cambensy, Breen, Cavanagh, Rogers, Tisdell, Allor, Clemente and Shannon offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare April 2021 as Sikh Awareness and
2 Appreciation Month in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, Sikhism is the fifth largest religion in the world
4 today and is a monotheistic faith founded in the Punjab region of
5 India approximately 500 years ago; and

6 Whereas, The Sikh religion is based on a belief in one God,

1 universal equality, and basic values of truth, nonviolence,
2 tolerance, and peace; and

3 Whereas, Most of the world's 25 million Sikhs live in India,
4 but more than 500,000 make the United States their home; and

5 Whereas, During the early 20th century, thousands of Sikh
6 Americans worked on farms, in lumber mills and mines, and on the
7 Oregon, Pacific & Eastern Railroad. Sikh Americans pursue diverse
8 professions and make rich contributions to the social, cultural,
9 and economic vibrancy of the United States, including contributions
10 to our great nation in agriculture, information technology, small
11 businesses, the hotel industry, trucking, medicine, and technology;
12 and

13 Whereas, Michigan's Sikh community endeavors to enhance
14 understanding and respect among people of different religions by
15 leading and participating in interfaith thanksgiving prayers at
16 various places of worship and inviting various faith leaders and
17 members of their congregations to gurdwaras; and

18 Whereas, Michigan stands with the Sikh community in denouncing
19 hate crimes directed toward any individual based on their religious
20 beliefs; and

21 Whereas, Since September 11, 2001, Sikhs are often mistaken
22 for Taliban members or followers of Al Qaeda because of the
23 commonality of their beards and turbans and are subjected to a
24 disproportionately high rate of hate crimes; and

25 Whereas, The Sikh-American community continues to peacefully
26 overcome attacks on its identity and practices, whether in the form
27 of school harassment, employment discrimination, or fatal
28 shootings, including the murders of six Sikhs during the Oak Creek,
29 Wisconsin, Sikh Gurdwara shooting on August 5, 2012, and the

1 shooting of a Sikh man that occurred in Kent, Washington, on March
2 3, 2017; and

3 Whereas, The faithful service of the Sikh-American community
4 to this state merits appreciation as an integral thread in the
5 fabric of American plurality; and

6 Whereas, Our nation and this state are enriched by the
7 unparalleled diversity of our residents; now, therefore, be it

8 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
9 this legislative body declare April 2021 as Sikh Awareness and
10 Appreciation Month in the state of Michigan; and be it further

11 Resolved, That the Legislature recognizes and acknowledges the
12 significant contributions made by Michiganders of Sikh heritage to
13 our state and by adoption of this resolution, seeks to afford all
14 Michiganders the opportunity to better understand, recognize, and
15 appreciate the rich history and shared principles of Sikh
16 Americans; and be it further

17 Resolved, That the Legislature condemns all hate crimes and
18 bias incidents against Sikh Americans and encourages all Sikhs to
19 practice their faith freely and fearlessly; and be it further

20 Resolved, That the Clerk transmit copies of this resolution to
21 the author for appropriate distribution to the members of the
22 Legislature, members of the Michigan Sikh American community, and
23 other interested organizations or persons.