

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 and Tisdell 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,
7 universal equality, and basic values of truth, nonviolence,

1 tolerance, and peace; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 3, 2017; and

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

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

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

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

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

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