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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 283 Session of  
2022

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INTRODUCED BY KEARNEY, HUGHES, MARTIN, FONTANA, STREET, KANE AND  
COSTA, APRIL 21, 2022

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REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, APRIL 21, 2022

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2022 as "Sikh Awareness and  
2 Appreciation Month" in Pennsylvania to promote public  
3 awareness of the Sikh faith and recognize the important  
4 contributions of the Sikh community.

5 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is enriched by the diversity of  
6 its residents, who have cultivated a climate of social tolerance  
7 and intellectual pluralism that has sustained Pennsylvania  
8 throughout its history; and

9 WHEREAS, The Sikh community, which originated in Punjab,  
10 India, and began immigrating into the United States more than  
11 100 years ago, has played an important role in developing this  
12 country and Commonwealth; and

13 WHEREAS, Sikhism is the world's fifth largest religion with  
14 nearly 30 million adherents worldwide, including roughly 700,000  
15 in the United States; and

16 WHEREAS, Founded by Guru Nanak in the 15th century, the Sikh  
17 monotheistic tradition teaches its adherents to practice the  
18 universal principles of truthful living, service to humanity and  
19 devotion to God; and

1 WHEREAS, Believing that every human being, regardless of  
2 race, gender or creed, is equal in the eyes of God, Sikhism  
3 emerged as a pioneer of social justice; and

4 WHEREAS, Sikhism widely encourages female participation in  
5 religious ceremonies and interfaith efforts to fight oppression  
6 regularly suffered; and

7 WHEREAS, The religion's emphasis on loving service to  
8 humanity inspires Sikhs to make lasting social contributions,  
9 such as providing free food to the less fortunate; and

10 WHEREAS, Despite their progressive principles and charitable  
11 deeds, the American-Sikh community commonly experiences  
12 discrimination, often by individuals who are unaware of the  
13 beliefs and practices of the faith; and

14 WHEREAS, Nearly 60% of Americans admit to knowing nothing  
15 about the religion or its practitioners; and

16 WHEREAS, Sikhs disproportionately experience school bullying,  
17 with estimates indicating that more than 50% of all Sikh  
18 children, and roughly 67% of turbaned Sikh children, endure  
19 physical or verbal abuse at school; and

20 WHEREAS, National rates of anti-Sikh bigotry rose  
21 dramatically following the September 11th terrorist attacks; and

22 WHEREAS, Deadly assaults against the Sikh community, such as  
23 the hate-inspired murder of six worshipers at the Sikh Temple of  
24 Wisconsin in August 2012, are all-too-common occurrences across  
25 the country; and

26 WHEREAS, Although the Sikh community continues to peacefully  
27 overcome each attack on its cultural identity, public awareness  
28 of the Sikh faith and memorializing the lasting contributions of  
29 its Sikh residents is essential; and

30 WHEREAS, During the early 20th century, thousands of Sikh

1 Americans worked on farms, in lumber mills and mines and on the  
2 Oregon, Pacific and Eastern Railroad; and

3 WHEREAS, Sikh Americans pursue diverse professions and make  
4 rich contributions to the social, cultural and economic vibrancy  
5 of the United States, including service as members of the United  
6 States Armed Forces; and

7 WHEREAS, Significant contributions to our great nation in  
8 agriculture, information technology, small businesses, the hotel  
9 industry, trucking, medicine and technology are made by Sikh  
10 Americans; and

11 WHEREAS, Sikh Americans distinguish themselves by fostering  
12 respect among all people through faith and service; and

13 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is committed to educating  
14 residents about the world's religions, the value of religious  
15 diversity, tolerance grounded in First Amendment principles, a  
16 culture of mutual understanding and the diminution of violence;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Vaisakhi, the annual festival held in April to  
19 commemorate the creation of the Khalsa Panth, a fellowship of  
20 devout Sikhs, is one of the most important Sikh holidays;  
21 therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of April 2022  
23 as "Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month" in Pennsylvania to  
24 promote public awareness of the Sikh faith and recognize the  
25 important contributions of the Sikh community; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That Pennsylvanians celebrate the Sikh community  
27 and combat anti-Sikh bigotry.