**THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA**

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

## No. 59 Session of 2023

A RESOLUTION

1　Designating the month of March 2023 as "Muslim Heritage and
2　　Appreciation Month" in Pennsylvania.

3　　WHEREAS, This Commonwealth takes great pride in the varied

4　religious and cultural traditions of its residents and seeks to

5　afford all residents the opportunity to better understand,

6　recognize and appreciate the rich histories, cultures and shared

7　principles of Muslim Americans; and

8　　WHEREAS, Muslims are the world's second-largest religious

9　group, with 1.9 billion adherents, representing approximately

10　25% of the world's population; and

11　　WHEREAS, Muslims have made significant contributions that

12　shape our world, including notable achievements in philosophy,

13　mathematics, astronomy, physics, chemistry, medicine,

14　architecture, music, literature, athletics and the arts; and

15　　WHEREAS, The 3.85 million Muslims in the United States come

16　from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, including African-

17　American Muslims, immigrants and native-born Americans, and

1  represent approximately 1.2% of the country's population; and

2     WHEREAS, The history of Muslims in the United States dates

3  back to before the country's founding, originating with enslaved

4  Africans, of whom scholars estimate as many as 30% were Muslim,

5  who brought Islamic beliefs and practices with them and

6  contributed in numerous ways to the founding of the nation,

7  including courageous and dedicated military service in every

8  major American war from the Revolutionary War until today; and

9     WHEREAS, The long presence of African-American Muslim

10  populations in this Commonwealth has key historical

11  significance, with leading figures such as Muhammad Ali, Malcolm

12  X and Imam Warith Deen Mohammed having lived in this

13  Commonwealth; and

14     WHEREAS, Successive waves of Muslim immigrants from all over

15  the world have enriched American society; and

16     WHEREAS, Muslim Americans strive to promote peace and mutual

17  understanding between all faiths and identities while upholding

18  the values and principles of Islam and those of the United

19  States; and

20     WHEREAS, There are hundreds of thousands of Muslim Americans

21  in this Commonwealth, representing one of the largest Muslim

22  American populations of any state in the United States,

23  including numerous current and former elected officials

24  dedicated to public service in their communities; and

25     WHEREAS, Incidents of anti-Muslim violence and rhetoric are

26  still prevalent in our country and this Commonwealth, and

27  educational initiatives are critical to combating bigotry; and

28     WHEREAS, The residents of this Commonwealth benefit from the

29  patriotism, philanthropy, humanitarianism, advocacy, civic

30  engagement, culture and business of Muslim Americans and Muslim-

1 American organizations that operate in this Commonwealth; and

2 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth recognizes the positive impact

3 Muslims have made, and continue to make, to the advancement of

4 this Commonwealth and the nation; and

5 WHEREAS, It is appropriate to acknowledge and promote

6 awareness and appreciation of the myriad invaluable

7 contributions of American Muslims in this Commonwealth and

8 across the country, and extend to them the respect and

9 camaraderie every American deserves; therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the

11 month of March 2023 as "Muslim Heritage and Appreciation Month"

12 in Pennsylvania; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives acknowledge and

14 promote awareness and appreciation of Muslim Americans and

15 recognize the many contributions of this Commonwealth's Muslim

16 community.