87R19397 TBO-D

By:  Jetton H.R. No. 646

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Article One of the Texas Constitution uphold and protect the freedom for all people to manifest, teach, practice, worship, and observe their religion; and

WHEREAS, Violations of religious liberty are often motivated by fear and hatred; according to a 2019 report from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 20.1 percent of single-bias hate crime incidents were motivated by religious bias, and throughout that year, 1,715 people were victims of anti-religious hate crimes; 13.2 percent of these crimes were anti-Islamic in nature, 13.2 percent were anti-various Christian religions, 60.2 percent were anti-Jewish, 3.5 percent were anti-Sikh, 0.4 percent were anti-Hindu, and 0.3 percent were anti-Buddhist; and

WHEREAS, From 2006 through 2019, 29 attacks against mosques occurred in Texas, including multiple shootings, bomb threats, and acts of arson and vandalism; from May 2020 through March 2021, more than 60 incidents of arson, vandalism, and other methods of destruction occurred at Catholic Churches throughout the U.S., including damage to statues and windows of churches in Texas; from 2015 through 2018, 151 anti-Semitic incidents occurred in Texas, including harassment, vandalism, and assault; and

WHEREAS, All anti-religious hate crimes are inconsistent with our nation's founding principles, and it is imperative that these issues be addressed; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby express support for the rights and dignity of citizens of all faiths and strongly condemn racism, intimidation, violence, vandalism, arson, and other crimes targeting places of worship and their congregants; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives affirm that all citizens should live without fear or intimidation in practice of their faith; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge local and state law enforcement authorities to work to prevent and report anti-religious hate crimes.