

By: Jetton

H.R. No. 646

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

14 WHEREAS, From 2006 through 2019, 29 attacks against mosques
15 occurred in Texas, including multiple shootings, bomb threats, and
16 acts of arson and vandalism; from May 2020 through March 2021, more
17 than 60 incidents of arson, vandalism, and other methods of
18 destruction occurred at Catholic Churches throughout the U.S.,
19 including damage to statues and windows of churches in Texas; from
20 2015 through 2018, 151 anti-Semitic incidents occurred in Texas,
21 including harassment, vandalism, and assault; and

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

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

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

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