

By: Bhojani

H.C.R. No. 85

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Islamophobia, defined as irrational fear, hatred,
2 or discrimination directed at Islam and Muslims, has led to an
3 increased incidence of hate crimes and acts of intolerance in the
4 United States and around the world; and

5 WHEREAS, March 15 marks the anniversary of the 2019
6 Christchurch mosque attacks in New Zealand, an act of terror that
7 resulted in the deaths of 51 innocent worshippers; this tragic
8 event occurred amid a surge in anti-Muslim violence and underscores
9 the urgent need to address Islamophobic hate and promote interfaith
10 understanding; and

11 WHEREAS, Texas is home to a diverse population, which
12 includes a vibrant and growing Muslim community that has made
13 significant contributions to the social, cultural, and economic
14 fabric of the state; in recent years, its members have been forced
15 to deal with alarming incidents of violence, intolerance, and
16 bigotry; and

17 WHEREAS, On January 28, 2017, the Victoria Islamic Center was
18 the target of an arson attack that destroyed the place of worship
19 and deeply impacted the local Muslim community; and

20 WHEREAS, On May 19, 2024, a hate crime was committed against a
21 Muslim woman and her two children at a public swimming pool in
22 Eules; the attacker interrogated the woman in a racially charged
23 manner before assaulting the woman's six-year-old son and
24 attempting to drown her three-year-old daughter; both children

1 survived, thanks to the efforts of the mother and a bystander; and

2 WHEREAS, It is estimated that there are hundreds of
3 Islamophobic incidents in Texas each year, and that many more go
4 unreported; and

5 WHEREAS, The designation of a Day to Combat Islamophobia will
6 serve to reinforce the importance of fostering mutual
7 understanding, interfaith dialogue, and respect for all religious
8 communities; moreover, the observance offers a fitting opportunity
9 to promote educational initiatives, policy discussions, and other
10 forms of community engagement to counter Islamophobia and encourage
11 inclusivity; and

12 WHEREAS, Through this observance, the State of Texas is
13 reaffirming its commitment to standing against all forms of hatred,
14 bigotry, and discrimination and protecting the civil rights and
15 religious freedoms of all of its residents; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas
17 hereby designate March 15 as the Day to Combat Islamophobia; and, be
18 it further

19 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of
20 Section 391.004(d), Government Code, this designation remain in
21 effect until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is
22 finally passed by the legislature.