

2015-J5528

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 6, 2016, as Anti-Islamophobia Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, Ramadan is the holiest month in the Islamic calendar and, in the year 2016 it begins on June 6th; and

WHEREAS, International events have led to an increase in hate crimes and negative rhetoric throughout our Nation and in New York State against those who identify as Muslim, or those perceived to be Muslim; and

WHEREAS, The term Islamophobia is a 20th Century addition to our American popular culture's vernacular, in part, because of reactionary and misguided hate crimes which are driven by an ever-increasing prevalence of anti-Muslim rhetoric in the form of misinformation about Islam and negative stereotypes; and

WHEREAS, The victims of anti-Muslim hate crimes and rhetoric have faced physical, verbal, and emotional abuse because they were Muslim or believed to be Muslim; and

WHEREAS, There are thousands of citizens in New York State who identify themselves as Muslim, a community made up of many diverse beliefs and cultures, and both immigrants and native-born New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, New York State's Muslim community is recognized as having made innumerable contributions to the cultural and economic fabric and well-being of our society; and

WHEREAS, Hateful and intolerant acts against Muslims, or those perceived to be Muslim, are contrary to the American values of acceptance, welcoming, and fellowship with those of all faiths, beliefs, and cultures; and

WHEREAS, The constitutional right to freedom of religious practice is a cherished American value and violence or hate speech towards any

community based on their faith is in contravention of our founding principles; and

WHEREAS, These acts affect not only the individual victims but also their families, communities, and the entire group whose faith or beliefs were the motivation for the act; and

WHEREAS, Muslim women who wear hijabs, headscarves, or other religious articles of clothing have been disproportionately targeted because of their religious clothing, articles, or observances; and

WHEREAS, Religious extremism that promotes violence or bigotry in the name of faith is not the property of any specific faith and must be opposed in all its forms whenever undertaken by any member of any faith; and

WHEREAS, We are steadfast in our dedication to the rights and dignity of every New York State citizens of all faiths, beliefs, and cultures; and

WHEREAS, We are dedicated in belief and in law that the civil rights and civil liberties of the diverse citizens of New York State should be protected and preserved; and

WHEREAS, We affirm that our diversity is a symbol of our strength as a State and as a Nation; and

WHEREAS, We reject Islamophobia in all forms; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 6, 2016, as Anti-Islamophobia Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.