Council on American-Islamic Relations
Washington State Chapter
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Faith in Our State and Laws Resolution

WHEREAS, the U.S. Constitution is the supreme law of our nation, and this body has full confidence in its ability to endure all tests, and

WHEREAS, many immigrants came to our nation to escape government-sanctioned persecution of their faith, and

WHEREAS, this body believes that any law which is designed to restrict the liberty of one faith tradition erodes the founding principle of religious liberty and that it is, as James Madison wrote in 1785, proper to "take alarm" at any such "experiment on our liberties," and

WHEREAS, our state has a history of embracing individuals' right to practice the faith tradition of their choice within the law and free of government interference, and

WHEREAS, a multiplicity of religious beliefs, traditions and heritages bring strength to our state, and

WHEREAS, this body believes that it is not the role of the legislature of Washington State to disparage or marginalize any religious tradition, and

WHEREAS, this body finds abhorrent all forms of discrimination, including those forms of discrimination targeting religion or belief, and

WHEREAS, our state benefits from a number of individuals and institutions whose faith motivates them to provide food to the hungry, shelter to the needy, inexpensive or free health services and other humanitarian services, and

WHEREAS, religious leaders who facilitate conflict resolution often achieve judicially-sanctioned results that ease the burdens on our courts, and

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Washington State [House or Senate], that Washington State welcomes all religious beliefs, traditions and heritages, and

RESOLVED that this body has full confidence in the U.S. Constitution and the laws of the state of Washington and does not entertain any concern that any foreign or religious law offers a threat to the law of the land.