



2017 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to:** condemning violence and hate speech and expressing solidarity with
2 Muslims and all those targeted for their ethnicity, race, or religion.

3 Whereas, the United States was founded by immigrants, many fleeing religious
4 persecution, who enshrined freedom of religion as one of our nation's fundamental
5 legal and ethical principles; and

6 Whereas, the history of Islam in the United States began even before its
7 founding when African Muslims were enslaved and brought to the Americas, where
8 they later helped in numerous ways to build this country, including sacrificing their
9 lives on the line in every major war from the Revolutionary War on; and

10 Whereas, there are more than 3 million Muslims living in the United States
11 today and over 15,000 living in the state of Wisconsin, making invaluable
12 contributions to our economy, our social and political life, and our culture; and

13 Whereas, there has been an unprecedented backlash since 9/11 in the form of
14 hate crimes and employment discrimination toward Arab and Muslim Americans
15 and those perceived as Muslims; and

1 Whereas, Arab and Muslim Americans, and those perceived as Muslims, are
2 often subject to Islamophobia and are frequently the targets of abusive and
3 discriminatory police practices sanctioned by the state, including surveillance in
4 their neighborhoods and places of worship; and

5 Whereas, we are saddened and outraged at the recent escalation of hateful
6 rhetoric against Muslims, those perceived to be Muslims, immigrants, and all people
7 of color, and we are particularly concerned to see political figures and elected
8 government officials leading this escalation and using it in order to gain power; and

9 Whereas, in the face of extreme bigotry and violence, Muslim communities and
10 their leaders are using the language and teachings of Islam to promote peace, justice,
11 and service, and their institutions are continuing to play an essential societal role
12 providing charitable and humanitarian services to those in need; and

13 Whereas, we, as elected representatives of the people, have a special
14 responsibility not to stay silent in the face of hate, violence, and discrimination
15 against any of our constituents or countrymen; now, therefore, be it

16 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the Wisconsin
17 legislature:

18 (1) Condemns Islamophobia and all hateful speech and violent action directed
19 at Muslims, those perceived to be Muslims, immigrants, and people of color.

20 (2) Categorically rejects political tactics that use fear to manipulate voters or
21 to gain power or influence.

22 (3) Commits to pursuing a policy agenda that affirms civil and human rights
23 and ensures that those targeted on the basis of race, religion, or immigration status
24 can turn to their government without fear of recrimination.

