

1 A RESOLUTION supporting Muslim Day at the State Capitol on January 22, 2020.

2 WHEREAS, Kentucky is an open-minded, welcoming Commonwealth that
3 celebrates the diversity of its citizens, which includes a significant number of Muslims;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Muslims have been present from the earliest times in the history of
6 America and Kentucky, as evidenced by the African Muslims who were enslaved and
7 brought to this country, and by the largely Arab Muslims who came to Kentucky in the
8 late 1800s and early 1900s; and

9 WHEREAS, according to prominent scholars, approximately ten percent of
10 enslaved Africans brought to these shores were of Muslim origin, and one of them was
11 most likely Sambo Cunningham, who was living in Lincoln County in the 1850s; he was
12 born in Africa in 1780, and the name Sambo is a common name among various Muslim
13 peoples in the area which is now Gambia, Senegal, and Mali; and

14 WHEREAS, a significant number of Arabs from what is now Lebanon came to
15 America and Kentucky in the late 1800s and early 1900s; most of them were Christian
16 but a small number of Muslims came along with them, and among the Muslims were the
17 brothers Mahmoud and Hameed Kassem, who immigrated in 1901 and established a
18 general store in Letcher County, not far from the store of their fellow immigrant Srur
19 Dawahare; and

20 WHEREAS, the number of Muslims in Kentucky increased significantly starting in
21 the 1960s and doubling every decade afterwards; the increase has been due to
22 immigration from all parts of the Muslim world and conversion to Islam largely by
23 African Americans; and

24 WHEREAS, the present-day Kentucky Muslim community is extremely diverse,
25 consisting of African Americans, White Americans, and Muslims from every part of the
26 Muslim world, including South Asia, Southeast Asia, China, Iran, Turkey, Europe, the
27 Middle East, North Africa, West Africa, East Africa, and Southern Africa; and

1 WHEREAS, the present-day Muslim community is located throughout Kentucky, as
2 evidenced by 37 mosques spread throughout the Commonwealth from Paducah to
3 Prestonsburg; and

4 WHEREAS, the present-day Kentucky Muslim community is a positive contributor
5 to the health and economic well-being of Kentucky, with Muslims serving as doctors,
6 professors, auto workers, small business owners, and in numerous other professions; and

7 WHEREAS, one of the most famous Muslims in America and the world hails from
8 Kentucky: Muhammad Ali; and

9 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Muslim community has embraced the identity of being
10 American Muslims who strive for the common good of their Kentucky and American
11 society;

12 NOW, THEREFORE,

13 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***
14 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

15 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives hereby recognizes and supports
16 January 22, 2020, as the first annual Muslim Day at the State Capitol in order to celebrate
17 the rich diversity of Kentucky and to acknowledge the positive presence of Muslims in
18 our Commonwealth.

19 ➔Section 2. When the House of Representatives adjourns this day, it does so in
20 honor and recognition of Muslim Day at the State Capitol.

21 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
22 copy of this Resolution to Representative Susan Westrom.