

SENATE RESOLUTION
8652

By Senators Kline, Frockt, Hargrove, Cleveland, Smith, Parlette, Rolfes, Pearson, Bailey, Becker, Honeyford, Roach, Padden, Litzow, Murray, Ericksen, Kohl-Welles, and Conway

WHEREAS, The United States 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 results that ease the burdens on our courts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Washington State Senate, that diverse religious beliefs, traditions, and heritages are welcome in Washington, and that this body has full confidence in the United States Constitution and the laws of the state of Washington and does not entertain concern that religious practices, beliefs, or laws offer a threat to the law of our land.

I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,
do hereby certify that this is a true and
correct copy of Senate Resolution 8652,
adopted by the Senate
April 19, 2013

HUNTER G. GOODMAN
Secretary of the Senate