

## House Resolution 706

By: Representatives Trammell of the 132<sup>nd</sup>, Dreyer of the 59<sup>th</sup>, Shannon of the 84<sup>th</sup>, Jackson of the 64<sup>th</sup>, Park of the 101<sup>st</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Condemning Islamophobia and other hateful expressions of intolerance that contradict the  
2 values of the people of Georgia and the United States, and expressing condolences to the  
3 victims of recent hate crimes, including the 50 men, women, and children who were  
4 murdered while worshipping at two mosques in New Zealand; and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the Constitution committed the United States to the  
6 principles of religious freedom, and the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution  
7 established equal protection under law; and

8 WHEREAS, adherence to these principles is vital to the progress of the American people,  
9 including the diverse communities who live, learn, work, and raise families in the State of  
10 Georgia; and

11 WHEREAS, bigotry, discrimination, and crimes of hate threaten America's people, peace,  
12 and prosperity; and

13 WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., taught that persecution of any  
14 American is an assault on the rights and freedoms of all Americans; and

15 WHEREAS, anti-Muslim bigotry, commonly known as Islamophobia, entails prejudicial  
16 attitudes against Muslims and people perceived to be Muslim; and

17 WHEREAS, Islamophobia against American Muslims has been manifested in various ways,  
18 including through hate speech, hate crimes, illegal discrimination, political campaigns,  
19 religious profiling, and government policies; and

20 WHEREAS, a white supremacist terrorist who hoped to spark violence in the United States,  
21 and around the world, murdered 50 worshipers at two Muslim houses of worship in  
22 Christchurch, New Zealand, during Friday prayer on March 15, 2019; and

23 WHEREAS, arsonists attacked American mosques in Florida, Minnesota, Texas, and  
24 Washington in 2017; extremists plotted attacks against American Muslim communities in  
25 New York in 2019, Florida in 2017, and Kansas in 2016; and Georgia mosques were  
26 threatened with violence in 2016, 2017, and 2018; and

27 WHEREAS, in recent years, Georgia Muslims have also experienced harassment, vandalism,  
28 workplace discrimination, land-use discrimination, school bullying, and other acts of bigotry;  
29 and

30 WHEREAS, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has reported that hate crimes against  
31 Muslims or Muslim institutions in the United States dramatically increased between 2014  
32 and 2016; and

33 WHEREAS, the violation of an individual's civil rights based on his or her actual or  
34 perceived membership in a particular religious group violates the Constitution and the laws  
35 of the State of Georgia and the United States; and

36 WHEREAS, Islamophobia bears similarities to racism, anti-Semitism, and xenophobia, all  
37 of which have also threatened Americans in recent years; and

38 WHEREAS, all Georgians have a stake in combating prejudice based on religion, race, or  
39 place of birth.

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
41 the members of this body condemn Islamophobic words, policies, and actions as hateful  
42 expressions of intolerance that contradict American values and have no place in the State of  
43 Georgia or the United States; recognize the harm suffered by American Muslims and others  
44 as a result of anti-Muslim bigotry; express condolences to the victims of Islamophobia, both  
45 here and abroad, including the families of the 50 worshipers murdered in New Zealand;  
46 condemn all other forms of bigotry, including racism, anti-Semitism, and xenophobia, as  
47 contrary to the values of the United States; encourage law enforcement and government  
48 officials to take all necessary steps to protect houses of worship, including Georgia's 70  
49 mosques; and call on all public officials to confront the reality of bigotry so as to ensure that  
50 the United States lives up to the transcendent principles of tolerance, religious freedom, and  
51 equal protection embodied in the Declaration of Independence, as well as in the Constitution  
52 of the United States.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
54 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the  
55 public and the press.