



SPONSOR: Rep. Baumbach on behalf of all Representatives &
Sen. Townsend on behalf of all Senators

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
149th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 67

PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2018 AS “SIKH AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION MONTH” IN THE STATE OF DELAWARE.

1 WHEREAS, Delaware and our nation are at once blessed and enriched by the unparalleled diversity of our
2 residents; and

3 WHEREAS, Delaware first began recognizing Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month in 2017; and

4 WHEREAS, the Sikhs, who originated in Punjab, India, have resided in Delaware for over 40 years; and

5 WHEREAS, the first Sikh temple (Gurdwara) in Delaware was established in Elsmere in 1990; and

6 WHEREAS, the Sikh religion is based on a belief in one God and universal equality; and

7 WHEREAS, the Sikh community of Delaware has led and participated in many interfaith and charitable endeavors
8 benefiting Delawareans of all backgrounds, with a particular emphasis on helping the homeless population and others in
9 need; and

10 WHEREAS, the Sikh community of Delaware has always been involved in efforts aiming to enhance
11 understanding and respect among people of different religions by leading and participating in interfaith thanksgiving
12 prayers at various places of worship, inviting diverse faith leaders and members of their congregations to Sikh temples
13 (Gurdwaras), and going to places of worship of other faiths and denominations to share prayers and services and educate
14 each other about respective faiths, histories, traditions, scriptures, and underlying beliefs and values; and

15 WHEREAS, many industries in Delaware, especially the retail, automobile repair and service, food, education and
16 research, healthcare, transportation, and information technology industries, have significantly benefitted from the
17 contributions of the Sikh community; and

18 WHEREAS, the State of Delaware stands with the Sikh community in denouncing hate crimes directed towards
19 any individual on account of their religious beliefs; and

20 WHEREAS, since September 11, 2001, Sikhs are often mistaken for Taliban or followers of Al Qaida based upon
21 their appearance and clothing and are subject to a disproportionately high rate of hate crimes, with Sikh boys bullied at
22 twice the national bullying rate for non-Sikh boys; and

23 WHEREAS, since September 11, 2001, nationally, Sikhs have been subject to school harassment, employment
24 discrimination, and fatal shootings, including the murder of 6 Sikhs in the Oak Creek, Wisconsin Sikh Gurdwara shooting
25 on August 5, 2012; the shooting of a Sikh man in Kent, Washington on March 3, 2017; the assault of a Sikh Uber driver in
26 Illinois on January 28, 2018; and over 30 other hate crimes; and

27 WHEREAS, the recently elected mayor of Hoboken, New Jersey, Ravi Bhalla and his family received death
28 threats following his election; and

29 WHEREAS, the Sikh community in America continues to peacefully overcome attacks on its members, as well as
30 attacks on Sikh identity and practices; and

31 WHEREAS, the current United States Ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, was raised as a Sikh and in
32 New Jersey, Gurbir Grewal became the first Sikh Attorney General in the United States; and

33 WHEREAS, one way that the Delaware Sikh community promotes love, respect, and peace for all is through
34 billboards on I-95 that celebrate holidays such as Diwali, Thanksgiving, Guru Nanak's birthday, and Christmas; and

35 WHEREAS, the observance of "Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month" raises awareness of the contributions
36 of Sikhs in Delaware to the economy and wider community; and

37 WHEREAS, the faithful service of the Sikh community to the State of Delaware and the United States merits
38 appreciation as an integral thread in the fabric of American plurality.

39 NOW, THEREFORE:

40 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 149th General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the
41 Senate concurring therein, that the month of April 2018 is proclaimed "Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month" in the
42 State of Delaware.

SYNOPSIS

This House Concurrent Resolution proclaims the month of April 2018 as "Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month" in the State of Delaware.