



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

DELAWARE STATE SENATE
149th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2017 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, the Sikhs, who originated in Punjab, India, first entered Delaware in the 1970s; and

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

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

6 WHEREAS, the Sikh American community in Delaware has led and participated in many interfaith and charitable
7 endeavors benefiting all Delawareans, with a particular emphasis on helping homeless populations and others in need; and

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

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

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

18 WHEREAS, since September 11, 2001, the Sikhs are often mistaken for Taliban or followers of Al Qaida, owing
19 to the commonality of their beards and turbans, and subjected to a disproportionately high rate of hate crimes, and Sikh
20 boys suffer bullying at twice the national bullying rate for other boys; and

21 WHEREAS, the Sikh American community continues to peacefully overcome attacks on its identity and practices,
22 whether in the form of school harassment, employment discrimination, or fatal shootings, including the murders of 6 Sikhs
23 during the Oak Creek, Wisconsin Sikh Gurdwara shooting on August 5, 2012, and the shooting of a Sikh man that occurred

24 in Kent, Washington on March 3, 2017, in addition to over 30 other hate crimes that have occurred nationwide since the
25 September 11 attacks; and

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

28 NOW, THEREFORE:

29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 149th General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House of
30 Representatives concurring therein, that the month of April 2017 is proclaimed “Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month”
31 in the State of Delaware.

SYNOPSIS

This Concurrent Resolution proclaims the month of April 2017 as “Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month” in the State of Delaware.

Author: Senator Townsend