

August 25, 2023

The Honorable Eloise Reyes
1021 O Street, Room 8210
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: WITHDRAW OPPOSITION – HR 52 – Relative to American Muslim Appreciation and Awareness Month

Dear Assemblymember Eloise Reyes:

We write to formally withdraw our opposition to House Resolution 52 (HR 52) – related to American Muslim Appreciation and Awareness Month in August 2023. As a result of amendments to the resolution implemented on August 23, 2023, we believe this version of HR 52 better reflects the leadership and achievements of California’s flourishing Muslim American community.

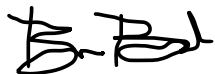
The Middle East Forum (MEF) works with moderate and reform Muslim communities that are historically marginalized and often pushed to the political sidelines. Muslim American society is not homogenous, and we seek to uplift voices that represent the rich ideological diversity found within a community that includes countless sects, movements, and faith traditions. We stand opposed to Islamist groups that divide the community and promote extremism.

MEF and its partners are encouraged by your response to our concerns. We appreciate that you considered the evidence and issued amendments with the interests of all Californians in mind. The removal of references to the Islamic Circle of North America, the Muslim American Society, and the Institute of Knowledge is a commendable step in the right direction for a resolution that honors Muslim American achievements. Therefore, we withdraw our opposition to HR 52.

Please consider contacting MEF in the future to consult on matters related to counter-extremism and interfaith relations. We provide policy recommendations that are consistently adopted by U.S. Congress and state legislatures around the country.

Again, thank you for taking the time to review the facts and respond appropriately.

Sincerely,



Benjamin Baird
Director of MEF Action
Middle East Forum