



CAIR
NEW JERSEY

**AMERICA'S LARGEST ISLAMIC CIVIL
LIBERTIES AND ADVOCACY GROUP**

March 1, 2023

Dear Assembly State and Local Government Committee:

Earlier last month, the New Jersey Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-NJ) joined New Jersey community leaders and coalition partners at the Senate Chambers in support of the Senate Joint Resolution, [SJR105](#) and celebrated the State Senate's passing of Senate Joint Resolution [[SJR105](#)] designating January of each year as "Muslim Heritage Month" in New Jersey while calling on the State Assembly to follow suit and pass Assembly Joint Resolution [[AJR194](#)]. Late last year, CAIR-NJ testified in support of [SJR105](#), the Senate Joint Resolution that designate January of each year as "Muslim Heritage Month". Given the growing population of Muslims in New Jersey, it is only appropriate that the New Jersey State Legislature recognize and acknowledge the diverse and vibrant community.

While we celebrate the State Senate's passing of Senate Joint Resolution [[SJR105](#)], we are now calling on the Assembly State and Local Government Committee to please hold a public hearing on the Assembly Joint Resolution [[AJR194](#)] and release it from the Assembly Committee so that it may move to an Assembly voting session and pass. From restrictions placed on Muslims to practice our religion, to profiling, bullying, bias incidents, hate crimes and discrimination stemming from a lack of understanding of Islam, the need for a Muslim Heritage Month is crucial. The resolution to designate January as Muslim Heritage Month will play a critical role in public education and help discuss and celebrate American Muslims in culturally competent ways.

In tandem with our coalition partners and community members we are calling on you all to please hold a public hearing on the Assembly Joint Resolution [[AJR194](#)] and release it from the Assembly Committee so that it may move to an Assembly voting session and pass.

We are excited to see the resolution move through the State Senate, and we are optimistic that the State Assembly will do the same. New Jersey could be a pioneer in establishing Muslim Heritage Month, and we are excited to see that happen.

Thank you for your support and consideration of our request.

Respectfully,

32BJ SEIU
Alchemy Consulting LLC
AlGhazaly School Inc – Jersey City
American Muslims for Palestine - New Jersey
Bakka Corp – Jersey City
Bergen County Islamic Education Center

Black Lives Matter Paterson
Center for Islamic Life at Rutgers University
Center for Security, Race and Rights
Council of Imams in New Jersey
Darul Islah Masjid of Teaneck
Eid Committee
Fair Share Housing Center
Faith in New Jersey
Green Muslims of New Jersey
IMI
Indian American Muslim Council
Indonesian Muslim Society in America
Islamic Center of Ewing
Islamic Council of Greater Trenton
Islamic Center of Jersey City
Islamic Center of Morris County
Islamic Center of Passaic County
Islamic Center of Union County
Islamic Circle of North America
ICNA Council for Social Justice – New Jersey
Islamic Community Cultural Center
Islamic Society of Basking Ridge
Islamic Society of Central Jersey
Jam E Masjid of Boonton
League of Women Voters of New Jersey
Make the Road New Jersey
Masjid Al-Iman of Jersey City
Masjid As’Habul Yameen Inc
Masjidullah, Inc.
Masjid Muhammad – Newark
Masjid Shuhada
Masjid Ul Wadud of Montclair
Moroccan American Recreational and Organizational Council
Muslim Center of Middlesex County
Muslim Center of Somerset County
Muslim Community of New Jersey
Muslim Foundation Inc
Muslim League of Voters of New Jersey
NAACP New Jersey State Conference
National Domestic Workers Alliance – New Jersey
New Afrika Halal Group
New Brunswick Islamic Center
Newark Communities for Accountable Policing
New Freedom Works, Inc
New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice
New Jersey Citizen Action

New Jersey Institute for Social Justice
New Jersey Muslim Lawyers Association
New Jersey League of Conservation Voters
New Jersey Muslim Officers Society
New Jersey Policy Perspective
New Jersey Working Families Party
NIA Masjid of Newark
NJ Sisterhood
North Hudson Islamic Center
Northern New Jersey Jewish Voice for Peace
North New Jersey Muslim Federation
Occupy Bergen County
Palestinian American Community Center
Salvation and Social Justice
Sikh Coalition
Shia Association of North America
Sheefa Pharmacy
Teaching While Muslim
United We Serve

cc: Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin
 Assemblywoman Angela V. McKnight
 Assemblywoman Shanique Speight
 Assemblywoman Annette Chaparro
 Assemblywoman Sadaf F. Jaffer
 Assemblyman Sterley S. Stanley
 Assemblywoman Shama A. Haider

Selaedin Maksut

Selaedin Maksut
CAIR-NJ Executive Director

Madina P. Ouedraogo

Madina P. Ouedraogo
CAIR-NJ Government Affairs Manager