

SR55, As Adopted by Senate, May 3, 2017

Senator Meekhof offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 55.

A resolution recognizing the ongoing contributions of the Arab American, Chaldean, and Jewish communities to the state of Michigan.

Whereas, Michigan should continue to be on the forefront of promoting racial and ethnic diversity, celebrating our differences, and embracing all cultures; and

Whereas, Michigan holds the largest Arab-American and Chaldean population outside the Middle East; and

Whereas, The Arab and Chaldean population in Michigan are well over 500,000 residents, and is the largest population outside of the Middle East; and

Whereas, Michigan's Jewish population amounts to almost 75,000 across Michigan; and

Whereas, Arab, Chaldean, and Jewish Americans make up the largest number of small, independent business owners across the state of Michigan; and

Whereas, The Arab, Chaldean, and Jewish people come from diverse and vibrant cultures which are rooted in a strong sense of family, education, art, business and history; creating better lives for their families, community and the state of Michigan; and

Whereas, The Arab, Chaldean, and Jewish Americans make Michigan a better place through their cultural, economic, and social impacts. Arab, Chaldean, and Jewish Americans have been involved in and are an integral part of Michigan's defining moments since the 1930s; and

Whereas, Recognizing the positive impact of Arabs, Chaldeans, and Jewish people to the state of Michigan is necessary in appreciating the important role of immigrants, refugees, and all new comers; and

Whereas, Without the hard work and undying perseverance of these communities, their historical culture, traditions, and impact as staples of Michigan's economy in the automobile, retail, and cottage industries, along with impact in the science, legal, and education fields; and

Whereas, We are fortunate to stand as a beacon to the rest of the United States as an example of how to be welcoming and cohesive; to work together with people of different backgrounds. Michiganders naturally celebrate different cultures, build a strong economy, and foster an environment where people from across the globe desire to live, work, and play; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative body recognize the long standing contributions made by the Arab, Chaldean, and Jewish communities; and be it further

Resolved, That we call upon all Michiganders to take time to reflect on the significance of having members of these incredible communities woven into our state; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Arab American and Chaldean Council, Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services, and The Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit for their dedication and nearly 150 years of combined services to their clients, community and state of Michigan.