

1 **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON GUARDING THE CIVIL**
2 **LIBERTIES AND FREEDOMS FOR ALL PEOPLE**

3 2017 GENERAL SESSION

4 STATE OF UTAH

5 **Chief Sponsor: Brian E. Shiozawa**

6 House Sponsor: _____

8 **LONG TITLE**

9 **General Description:**

10 This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor affirms their resolve to
11 protect the civil liberties, religious freedoms, and dignity of all Americans, legal
12 immigrants, and refugees of good will seeking protection against persecution, and their
13 determination to protect the constitutional rights of all those subject to discriminatory
14 and prejudicial actions and policies.

15 **Highlighted Provisions:**

16 This resolution:

17 ▶ affirms the Legislature's and the Governor's commitment to protect the civil
18 liberties, religious freedoms, and dignity of all Americans, legal immigrants, and
19 refugees of good will seeking protection against persecution;

20 ▶ expresses the Legislature's and the Governor's determination to protect the
21 constitutional rights of all those subject to discriminatory and prejudicial actions
22 and policies; and

23 ▶ welcomes any and all efforts to educate and promote understanding and good will
24 among the pluralistic communities that are an integral part of Utah's rich history and
25 heritage.

26 **Special Clauses:**

27 None



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Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

WHEREAS, since its inception, the United States of America has served as a refuge for oppressed people of good will fleeing religious, ethnic, and political persecution;

WHEREAS, freedom and the rule of law are at the heart of civil liberties and democratic values;

WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence enshrined the self-evident concept that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness";

WHEREAS, the freedoms enumerated in the Bill of Rights protect the fundamental rights of all Americans;

WHEREAS, the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution guarantees equal justice under law for all individuals regardless of race, religion, national origin, or other arbitrary factors;

WHEREAS, minority ethnic and religious groups in the United States have suffered from the damaging consequences of racial and religious bigotry, nativism, hate crimes, mob violence, intimidation, bullying, and other forms of vigilantism;

WHEREAS, Jews, Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, and other universal faiths as well as ethnic and cultural groups from every corner of the world are fully integrated into American society and should not be criminalized as groups because of individuals professing to act in their names;

WHEREAS, the United States is an open society enriched by the ethnic, religious, intellectual, scientific, and cultural heritage of humankind; and

WHEREAS, at a time when some seek to sow the seeds of discord and division, Americans must draw upon common strengths and humanity to reap peace, justice, and understanding;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein, affirms its commitment to protect the civil liberties, religious freedoms, and dignity of all Americans, legal immigrants, and refugees of good will seeking protection against persecution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor express their

59 determination to protect the constitutional rights of all those subject to discriminatory and
60 prejudicial actions and policies.

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor welcome any and
62 all efforts to educate and promote understanding and good will among the pluralistic
63 communities that are an integral part of Utah's rich history and heritage.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of
65 the United States, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United
66 States House of Representatives, and the members of Utah's congressional delegation.

Legislative Review Note
Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel