

RESOLUTION NO. .

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THAT THE WEARING OF HIJAB IS A PROTECTED CHOICE

WHEREAS, the people of the United States and the people of San Mateo County come from a variety of backgrounds and are united in certain foundational beliefs such as affirming the inherent dignity of all persons, the right of every person to be treated with respect, and the right of all citizens to practice their religion freely; and

WHEREAS, the hijab, a traditional veil which covers a woman's hair and chest, has been very important to the history of Islam, and is meant to promote dignity and respect for women while maintaining modesty and respect for religious faith; and

WHEREAS, to combat prejudice, leaders in the Muslim community are working tirelessly to show that the wearing of the Hijab is a choice, a freedom, and a blessing, as well as to educate their fellow citizens about Islam in ways which are relevant and meaningful; and

WHEREAS, in February of 2022, a Muslim elementary school crossing guard was targeted and harassed with hate speech by protesters in Brentwood, California, because she was wearing a hijab; and

WHEREAS, a small protest, in January of this year, made national headlines after several government-run educational institutions, in the state of Karnataka in India, denied entry to students wearing hijabs; and

WHEREAS, in France, the French senate, in January of this year, voted 160 to 143 to ban the wearing of the hijab and other "ostensible religious symbols" in sports competitions; and

WHEREAS, Muslim women in France already face restrictions on what they can wear in certain places, including the full Islamic veil (burqa and niqab), which has been banned from public places -- including streets, public transport, shops, hospitals, and cinemas -- in France since April 2021, following a law prohibiting the concealment of the face in public spaces; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, a Quebec court ruled that the province may bar government workers in "positions of authority," such as police officers and judges, from wearing religious symbols such as Islamic veils and Sikh turbans on the job; and

WHEREAS, one of America's greatest strengths as a society has been our ability to embrace our different faiths and allow their members to express themselves freely;
And

WHEREAS, The wearing of the hijab is a proud display of religious faith and communal bonding which will make us stronger as a nation and more accepting of others; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County recognizes that the wearing of the hijab is a protected choice, encouraging greater religious tolerance and understanding in our communities.

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