

Rep. Miller offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 342.

A resolution to express strong disappointment over the recent assault on First Amendment freedom of religion rights arising from the proposed Park51 community center project near Ground Zero and to decry all forms of discrimination against all religions present in our diverse nation.

Whereas, The United States of America has long been considered as a haven for those who suffer from oppression, whether it be from political leaders or religious ones, and it is a country that is proud of this history; and

Whereas, Incidents such as the recent Qur'an burning in East Lansing are representative of the anti-religious discrimination which is increasing in this country and affecting Muslims, Jews, and Christians alike; and

Whereas, This trend renounces that proud history of American tolerance; and

Whereas, The Founding Fathers of our nation saw freedom of religion to be requisite to a well-ordered and democratic society and important enough to be listed first amongst the sacred freedoms of the First Amendment; and

Whereas, This important freedom applies to all members of all religions that are represented in our diverse United States and should not be undermined due to differences in philosophy or theology; and

Whereas, Freedom of religion inherently includes the liberty to locate religious facilities in public places without discrimination or imposition. We recognize that this is a critical component to the guarantees of the First Amendment; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we express our strong disappointment for the apparent forsaking of our founding ideals that has been observed nationwide since the plans for Park51 were announced; and be it further

Resolved, That we express our support for all members of all denominations of all faiths who are suffering discrimination and hardship due to their choice in worship. May they find the strength to keep their heads held high and empower the First Amendment by ignoring the vitriol and continuing to worship freely.