

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.182

Reps. Farhat and Aiyash offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to condemn the *Wall Street Journal* opinion piece,  
2 "Welcome to Dearborn, America's Jihad Capital," as racist and  
3 Islamophobic.

4           Whereas, On February 2nd, 2024, the *Wall Street Journal*  
5 published a biased, fear-mongering opinion piece titled "Welcome to  
6 Dearborn, America's Jihad Capital." The author, Steven Stalinsky,  
7 writes that "[m]any current or onetime Dearborn residents have been  
8 convicted of terror-related crimes in recent years," stoking fear  
9 and paranoia about Michiganders in the minds of his readers.  
10 Stalinsky paints a picture of protesters "with kaffiyehs covering  
11 their faces" and Muslim leaders delivering "antisemitic sermons,"  
12 pitting Jews and Muslims against each other despite the fact that  
13 members of both faiths have been subjected to persecution for

1 centuries. The author marvels at the fact that this could occur,  
2 not in the Middle East, but in a suburb of Detroit. Referring to  
3 "[w]hat's happening in Dearborn" as a potential "national-security  
4 issue" and imploring "[c]ounterterrorism agencies at all levels  
5 [to] pay close attention" only makes Dearborn residents even more  
6 vulnerable to bias, prejudice, and unfair scrutiny. Arab-Americans  
7 have a long-standing history of serving our nation, both at home  
8 and abroad, and implying that the members of this community are a  
9 threat to America is an insult. The hateful rhetoric used in this  
10 article could lead to hate violence, posing a threat to the  
11 residents of Dearborn and to Arabs and Muslims across the state of  
12 Michigan; and

13       Whereas, These statements come at a time when hatred and  
14 division are already on the rise. Nationwide, FBI statistics show  
15 that the number of single-bias incidents increased from 10,530 in  
16 2021 to 11,288 in 2022. The proportion of hate crimes motivated by  
17 religious bias has also increased in recent years, both in Michigan  
18 and across the country. Most of the religiously motivated hate  
19 crimes committed in Michigan are grounded in anti-Jewish or anti-  
20 Islamic sentiments. According to the Arab American Anti-  
21 Discrimination Committee, since October 7, 2023, there have been  
22 many incidents of hate-motivated violence targeting Arabs,  
23 Palestinians, and Muslims, including the fatal stabbing of a six-  
24 year-old Palestinian American boy and the shooting of three  
25 Palestinian American students; and

26       Whereas, Media outlets have a collective responsibility to  
27 help build trust among different peoples, and to refuse to give  
28 voice to those who would perpetuate stereotypes and prejudice. Our  
29 leaders have recognized this. Following the publication of

1 Stalinsky's column, the President wrote, "We must continue to  
2 condemn hate in all forms," U.S. Senator Peters called the article  
3 "anti-Arab, anti-Muslim & wrong," and the Governor stated,  
4 "Islamophobia and all forms of hate have no place in Michigan, or  
5 anywhere. Period." The Mayor of Dearborn reported "an alarming  
6 increase in bigoted and Islamophobic rhetoric online targeting the  
7 city of Dearborn," and he has called on the *Wall Street Journal* to  
8 do better. The *Wall Street Journal* has failed in its journalistic  
9 responsibility and must be held accountable for any harm inflicted  
10 directly by the article or by those it radicalizes; and

11       Whereas, The City of Dearborn is a thriving community and a  
12 beacon for those seeking to realize the American Dream. Thousands  
13 of immigrants have flocked to this area over the years, in part to  
14 take advantage of the numerous jobs created by the Ford Motor  
15 Company. The birthplace of Henry Ford, Dearborn is home to Ford  
16 World Headquarters; a Research and Engineering Center, which is  
17 undergoing a ten-year transformation into a massive campus where  
18 designers, engineers, and developers can work side-by-side; and the  
19 Rouge factory complex, which has become a model of 21st-century  
20 sustainable design. A true cultural melting pot, Dearborn has  
21 become the fastest-growing city in the state of Michigan. Dearborn  
22 is a city that stands against hatred in all its forms, whether it  
23 is anti-Arab, anti-Palestinian, anti-Muslim, or anti-Jewish; now,  
24 therefore, be it

25       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we condemn the  
26 *Wall Street Journal* opinion piece, "Welcome to Dearborn, America's  
27 Jihad Capital," as racist and Islamophobic; and be it further

28       Resolved, That we call on the *Wall Street Journal* to retract  
29 this article and issue a public apology to the City of Dearborn.