

House Resolution 1702

By: Representatives Romman of the 97th, Park of the 107th, Lim of the 98th, Adesanya of the 43rd, Bell of the 75th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Wadee Alfayoumi; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Wadee Alfayoumi, a 6-year-old Palestinian Muslim American boy, was loved
3 by his family and friends as an energetic, loving, and joyous light who brought sunshine to
4 his loved ones and classmates; and
- 5 WHEREAS, on October 16, 2023, at 11:30 a.m., Wadee Alfayoumi was brutally stabbed 26
6 times by a hate-driven perpetrator and tragically succumbed to his injuries; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the perpetrator has been indicted for a hate crime by the Will County, Illinois,
8 grand jury, as there is evidence the perpetrator yelled during the brutal killing, "All Muslims
9 should die" and has been observed to be a consumer of media containing dehumanizing and
10 hateful rhetoric that was anti-Muslim and anti-Palestinian; and
- 11 WHEREAS, Wadee Alfayoumi's family wanted the United States to be his home and to
12 provide Wadee a life of safety away from dehumanizing and hateful rhetoric toward
13 Palestinian people, and it is a tragedy that the same dehumanization Wadee's family sought
14 to escape abroad contributed to the loss of his life in the United States; and

15 WHEREAS, no one should be a target of hate because of their ethnicity or religion,
16 expressed verbally or through how one dresses including, but not limited to, the wearing of
17 a hijab, keffiyeh, turban, mitpahat, tichel, shpitzel, sheitel, kippah, and yarmulke; and

18 WHEREAS, dehumanizing misinformation and disinformation fuels sentiments of hate that
19 result in violence against those who belong or who are perceived to belong to a certain ethnic
20 or religious group; and

21 WHEREAS, the Palestinian community's migration to the United States dates back to the late
22 19th century; and

23 WHEREAS, the United States is home to one of the largest Palestinian diasporas in the world
24 that is made up of lawyers, doctors, teachers, business owners, law enforcement officers, and
25 others, all who contribute to the history, arts, commerce, promise, and character of this great
26 nation; and

27 WHEREAS, Wadee Alfayoumi shared a heritage, history, love, culture, tradition, and
28 brilliance belonging to the Palestinian people and was a symbol of another great Palestinian
29 life full of promise; and

30 WHEREAS, all children across the globe deserve to live in peace and to be free from
31 discrimination, hate crimes, and violence.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
33 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Wadee Alfayoumi and
34 express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
36 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
37 public and the press.