

1 **JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE SIKH COMMUNITY**

2 2023 GENERAL SESSION

3 STATE OF UTAH

4 **Chief Sponsor: Angela Romero**

5 Senate Sponsor: Luz Escamilla

6 Cosponsor:

7 Brett Garner

8

9 **LONG TITLE**

10 **General Description:**

11 This joint resolution honors the Sikh community.

12 **Highlighted Provisions:**

13 This resolution:

- 14 ▶ highlights the history and significant contributions of the Sikh community; and
- 15 ▶ expresses support for the Sikh community in the state.

16 **Special Clauses:**

17 None

18

19 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

20 WHEREAS, founded by Guru Nanak in 15th Century Punjab, India, the Sikh
21 monotheistic tradition teaches its adherents to practice the universal principles of truthful
22 living, service to humanity, and devotion to God;

23 WHEREAS, the Sikh community began immigrating to the United States in the late
24 1800s and has played an important role in developing this country and the state of Utah while
25 enriching American culture, history, economy, and diversity;

26 WHEREAS, Sikhism is the fifth largest religion in the world with more than 25 million
27 Sikhs worldwide, including more than one million in the United States;

28 WHEREAS, Sikh Americans distinguished themselves by fostering respect among all

29 people through faith and service;

30 WHEREAS, the religion's emphasis on loving service to humanity also inspires Sikhs
31 living in Utah to make lasting social contributions;

32 WHEREAS, the 10th Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, left the world and indicated to
33 the generations ahead to avoid idol worship and recognize the Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, the
34 principal scripture of Sikhism, as the "Living and Eternal Guru" of the Sikh religion;

35 WHEREAS, an essential part of Sikhism is langar, the practice of preparing and serving
36 a free meal to promote the Sikh tenet of seva, or selfless service;

37 WHEREAS, anyone, Sikh or not, can visit a gurdwara and partake in langar, with the
38 Darbar Sahib in Amristar serving more than 100,000 people every day;

39 WHEREAS, World Sikh Parliament, the governing body of the Sikhs, and Sikh
40 communities throughout the country have provided free meals, groceries, masks, and sanitizer,
41 etc. to many communities and organizations during the pandemic;

42 WHEREAS, Utah recognizes the cultural, religious, and interfaith importance of Shri
43 Guru Granth Sahib Ji as the "Living Guru" of Sikhs in promoting peace and declaring Sikhs as
44 a distinct ethnic and religious minority;

45 WHEREAS, although Sikhs have made immense contributions throughout history, they
46 have long faced oppression and discrimination throughout the world;

47 WHEREAS, according to the Sikh religion and history, Sikhs share a unique set of
48 beliefs and practices that are altogether different from other religions;

49 WHEREAS, the United Nations office of High Commissioner for Human Rights has
50 recognized Sikh Holy Scripture, Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, as a scripture meant to promote the
51 interfaith and inter-religious harmony, peace, and human rights;

52 WHEREAS, the state of Utah is committed to educating citizens about the world's
53 religions, the value of religious diversity, tolerance grounded in First Amendment principles, a
54 culture of mutual understanding, and the importance of reducing violence, all of which are
55 consistent with Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji's teachings; and

56 WHEREAS, the state of Utah seeks to further the diversity of its community and afford

57 all residents the opportunity to better understand, recognize, and appreciate the rich history and
58 shared experiences of Sikhs to enforce laws for access to equal opportunity of humans,
59 irrespective of their caste, creed, color, or appearance:

60 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah
61 recognizes and pays just tribute to the cultural heritage of the ethnic groups which compromise
62 and contribute to the richness and diversity of the community of the state of Utah.

63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature encourages all Sikhs to practice
64 their faith freely and fearlessly.