

In the name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful.
All praise and thanks belong to God, the Lord of the Worlds.
May peace and prayers be upon Prophet Muhammad and his family.



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Subject: CAIR Thanks You for Speaking Out Against Anti-Muslim Hate and Defending Religious Freedom

Dear U.S. House and Senate Democratic Chiefs of Staff, Legislative Directors, and Communications Directors:

I write on behalf of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), our nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization. We want to thank the many Democratic members of Congress who have spoken out against the recent rise in hateful anti-Muslim rhetoric among members of Congress.

Statements by House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries and others defending the religious freedom of American Muslims have sent an important message of solidarity. We encourage all members to follow-up these statements with concrete action, including advancing censure resolutions.

As you know, the hateful remarks by Republican members of Congress have gone far beyond acceptable discourse. Rep. Andy Ogles has declared that “[Muslims don’t belong in American society](#)” and that “[pluralism is a lie](#),” while Rep. Randy Fine has called for the destruction of “[mainstream Muslims](#).”

Rather than clearly condemning such rhetoric, House Speaker Mike Johnson justified it by arguing that Rep. Ogles and others have legitimate concerns about the (imaginary) “[imposition of sharia law](#)” in America. Last week, Speaker Johnson himself dabbled in anti-Muslim hate when he attempted to frame the U.S.-Israel war on Iran as a religious war, [claiming that Iranians follow a “misguided religion.”](#)

Sen. Tommy Tuberville has also amplified anti-Muslim rhetoric, [sharing a post portraying New York’s first Muslim mayor as an internal “enemy”](#) by pairing images of the Sept. 11 attacks with a photograph of the mayor hosting a Ramadan iftar at City Hall.

In February, [CAIR formally designated the so-called “Sharia-Free America Caucus” an anti-Muslim hate group](#), the first time in our organization’s 32-year history that a congressional caucus has received such a designation. Members of this caucus have promoted legislation that, if enacted, could effectively restrict the practice of Islam in the United States.

The consequences of such rhetoric are real. [CAIR's 2026 Civil Rights Report, "The Right to Be Different," documented 8,683 reports of anti-Muslim bias incidents in 2025](#), the highest number CAIR has recorded in a single year. Our research department has concluded that government-driven Islamophobia played a major role in this trend. When elected officials portray American Muslims, Muslim student anti-genocide activists, and Muslim immigrants as outsiders or threats, that rhetoric contributes directly to a climate in which discrimination, harassment, and violence increase.

At moments like this, the voices of elected leaders defending constitutional values matter greatly. We encourage Democratic offices to remain vigilant in confronting anti-Muslim bigotry using the full range of congressional tools, including the pursuit of censure resolutions against Rep. Fine and Rep. Ogles.

We also encourage strong support for the upcoming **Ramadan and Eid resolutions in the House and Senate**, which reaffirm the place of Muslim Americans within the religious and civic fabric of the United States.

Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert S. McCaw". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Robert S. McCaw
Government Affairs Department Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations