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Welcoming All to Virginia

Background on welcoming all: In the last few years, hate crimes have been on the increase. According to a recent press release from Attorney General Mark Herring, “The FBI said 158 hate crime incidents were reported in Virginia in 2015. Two-thirds were motivated by a bias based on race, ethnicity or ancestry, 15 percent by religious bias and 15 percent by sexual orientation bias. Hate crimes in Virginia increased 21 percent from 2014 to 2015.”

During this last election cycle, there was an increase in anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim rhetoric at the national level. This has trickled down around Virginia and both immigrants and Muslims report feeling targeted and fearful. This should not be in Virginia.

VICPP’s position: VICPP believes Virginia must remain a welcoming state – welcoming immigrants and welcoming various faith grounds. What state has a prouder history of freedom of religious than Virginia?

VICPP also supports efforts to strengthen reporting of hate crimes and vigilance against hate crimes.

Specific Bills: VICPP supports the following bill:

HR 303 Welcoming Diversity in Virginia.

Introduced by Delegate Alfonso Lopez

This resolution is “Denouncing the intimidation of the Commonwealth's residents, affirming the commitment to diversity, and safeguarding the civil rights and dignity of all Virginians.”