

Introduction from Group Leader/CAIR-CA Staff

Thank you **[Name of Elected Official/Staffer]** for taking this meeting. Our community is gathered today as part of the 13th Annual Muslim Day at the Capitol, organized by CAIR California, to discuss issues of importance to the California Muslim community.

CAIR is the nation's largest Muslim civil liberties group, with 35 offices across the country. CAIR is a nonprofit organization that aims to protect civil rights, promote justice, and empower American Muslims.

At the first Muslim Day at the Capitol thirteen years ago, we had 50 participants from all over California, and today, we have hundreds of community members from across the state meeting with their elected officials.

I want to give the group a chance to introduce themselves: **(name, region, organizational affiliation, and whether they are a constituent)**.

Purpose of the Visit [POINT PERSON: most likely the group lead unless there is a volunteer]

Our meeting today aims to discuss and get your support for two bills and a resolution of crucial interest to the Muslim constituency in your district.

We are asking for your **YES** vote on the following bills:

- **AB-2377 Pupil instruction: physical education: religious exemption: fasting**
 - Introduced by Assemblymember Luz Rivas
- **AB-2763 State agencies: Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation: demographic data: Middle Eastern and North African groups. (The California MENA Inclusion Act)**
 - Introduced by Assembly Member Bill Essayli
- **Islamophobia and Palestinian Hate Resolution**
 - Seeking sponsor

Discuss Each Bill

Bill #1: **[POINT PERSON: _____]**

AB-2377 Pupil instruction: physical education: religious exemption: fasting

1. **STATUS:** The bill was re-referred to the Appropriations committee.
2. **WHAT it does:** Students fasting for religious reasons may face challenges in participating in physical education classes due to dehydration and lack of energy, especially when held later in the day. AB 2377 seeks to accommodate students practicing religious fasting by offering them a modified exercise regimen or providing them academic assignments **related** to physical education.

3. **WHY support?** (Storytelling: Be sure to note why this policy matters to you or impacts you or your family.)

- a. By offering accommodations such as modified exercise regimens or academic assignments, this bill prioritizes the physical and mental wellbeing of students, ensuring inclusivity and support for diverse religious practices. Additionally, it addresses concerns raised by studies and real-world instances of discrimination, promoting a culture of acceptance and understanding within educational institutions. This proactive approach not only upholds the rights and dignity of students but also fosters a more compassionate and equitable society, aligning with the values of diversity and inclusion that are fundamental to California's identity.

4. **The ASK:**

- a. Senators:
 - i. Can we count on your office to vote yes on AB 2377 on the Senate floor?
 - ii. We'd like to request your co-authorship of the bill.
- b. Assemblymembers:
 - i. Can we count on your office to support AB 2377 when it comes to Assembly committees and the Assembly floor?
 - ii. We'd like to request your co-authorship of the bill.

Bill #2: [POINT PERSON: _____]

AB-2763 State agencies: Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation: demographic data: Middle Eastern and North African groups. (California MENA Inclusion Act)

1. **STATUS:** The bill unanimously passed in both the Assembly Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety and has been referred to the Appropriations Committee.

2. **WHAT it does:**

- a. The California Middle Eastern or North African (MENA) Inclusion Act will require all California state departments, commissions, and agencies that collect demographic or ancestry data to include a "Middle Eastern or North African" category. Additionally, the bill will require the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to include these categories for the purposes of voluntary self-identification by individuals admitted, in custody, released, and paroled.

3. **WHY support?** (Storytelling: Be sure to note why this policy matters to you or impacts you or your family.)

- a. Despite having the largest MENA population in the US, California does not have a distinct ethnic MENA Category and is instead placed under the "White" category. The lack of recognition has allowed institutions to ignore and marginalize the realities faced by the MENA community.
- b. Establishing a distinct MENA category will provide California with more accurate data on the unique experiences and needs of the MENA population, from issues of healthcare to education, resulting in a more equitable access to government resources and services and stronger protections against bias and discrimination. The California MENA Act will also provide long overdue representation and recognition of California's vibrant MENA communities.

4. **The ASK:**

- a. Assemblymembers
 - i. Can we count on your office to vote yes on AB 2763 on the Assembly floor?
- b. Senators
 - i. Can we count on your office to vote yes on AB 2763 when it comes to Senate committees and the Senate floor?

Bill #3: [POINT PERSON: _____]

Resolution Condemning Islamophobia and Palestinian Hate

1. **STATUS:** The resolution has been drafted, and we are currently seeking sponsors.
2. **WHAT it does:**
 - a. Using the United Nations’ definition of Islamophobia, this resolution recognizes the stark rise in Islamophobic incidents over the past year both nationally and in California. The resolution states that California condemns Islamophobia.
3. **WHY support?** (Storytelling: Be sure to note why this policy matters to you or impacts you or your family.)
 - a. We have seen several incidents of Muslims being attacked over the past year. These “outlier” incidents are not outliers at all. By allowing the dehumanization and disinformation associated with Muslims to spread, Muslims have reported over 2,200 civil rights complaints over the past year. By passing this resolution, California makes clear that it values the lives of all of its residents, including Muslims.
4. **The ASK:**
 - a. *Opening:* We are currently seeking sponsors for this resolution.
 - b. *Ask:* Would you be interested in authoring this resolution?
 - c. *If the answer to the previous question is not yes:* Do you have others who you would recommend to author the resolution?
 - d. *If the answer to the previous question is not yes:* If this resolution was brought to the floor, would you support it?
 - e. *If the answer to the previous question is not yes:* Do you have any questions on the resolution that we can address or take back to help secure your support?

Conclusion of the meeting

Next steps: [POINT PERSON: _____]

- a. **Thank you** for your time. We will follow up with you and email the fact sheets for all the bills discussed in our meeting.
- b. Can we take a photo with your office for our social media?
- c. **Wait for the elected official and staffer to leave before debriefing with the group and completing the online [meeting survey](#)!**