



## **MUSLIM CAPITOL DAY AGENDA**

**October 28, 2025 | Harrisburg, PA**

**7:00 AM**

**Meet at Masjidullah**

Bus departs at 7:15AM

**9:30-10:15 AM**

**Orientation**

Room 60 East Wing (first level near cafeteria)

**10:30 AM -12:00 PM**

**Scheduled Meetings**

**12:15 PM - 1:00 PM**

**Press Conference**

Lower level, East Wing Rotunda

**1:00 PM - 2:00 PM**

**Lunch/Dhuhr**

Room 60 East Wing

**3:00 PM**

**Bus departs for Philadelphia**



# MUSLIM CAPITOL DAY | LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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## Pennsylvania Needs a Budget Passed ASAP

### Talking points:

- The funding freeze has disrupted SEPTA's operating and capital budgets, threatening service reliability and long-term projects.
- Reduced service disproportionately affects working-class commuters, seniors, students, and people with disabilities who depend on affordable public transportation.
- Transit instability also harms Philadelphia's economy, as workers struggle to get to jobs, and regional employers face reduced access to labor.
- The freeze undermines ongoing efforts to modernize infrastructure, which impact plans to fight climate change and make transit and other public services more environmentally friendly.
- Many nonprofits and community-based agencies report that hitting contingency fund limits is imminent — for example, over 80% of respondents in a survey said they'll exhaust their reserves by the end of October without a budget.
- The freeze is not just delaying support, it is increasing costs: organizations are borrowing against future payments, paying interest instead of putting those dollars into services
- Smaller and less visible services — e.g., crisis centers for sexual assault, local libraries, foster-care agencies — are disproportionately impacted because they lack large budget buffers
- Programs that serve as the first line of defense for vulnerable populations are being impaired — e.g., providers of housing assistance, utility assistance, child welfare, addiction treatment and behavioral health are facing severe funding disruptions at the county level

**Ask:** For Senators to approve a budget ASAP to avoid further disruptions and for Representatives to provide clarity about the status about the passing of the budget.



# MUSLIM CAPITOL DAY | LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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## Civil Rights & Free Speech

<a href="#">HB85</a> & <a href="#">SB127</a> - IHRA Definition of Antisemitism	<b>-OPPOSE-</b>
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*Prime Sponsors: Rep. Marcell; Sen. Mastriano*

*Co-Sponsors: Rep. White, Rep. Greiner, Rep. Kuzma, Rep. Hogan; Sen. Brooks, Sen. Brown, Sen. Argall, Sen. Hutchinson*

### Talking Points:

- HB85 would amend the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act to codify IHRA definition of antisemitism into law. This definition would criminalize speech critical of antisemitism.
- SB127 would amend the Public School Code to codify the IHRA definition of antisemitism to criminalize speech critical of anti-Semitism.
- These bills risk criminalizing legitimate criticism of Israeli government policies by conflating such speech with antisemitism.
- This bill would limit the freedom of speech for Palestinians and allies peacefully representing their community and organizing support for the country.

**Ask:** To oppose HB85 and SB127 and instead support efforts that combat antisemitism and hate in all forms- without limiting free speech or advocacy for Palestinian human rights.



# MUSLIM CAPITOL DAY | LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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## Religious Freedom & Inclusion

<b>HB 363</b> - Eid Holiday Bill	<b>-SUPPORT-</b>
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*Prime Sponsor: Rep. Khan*

*Co-Sponsors: Rep. Frankel, Rep. Waxman, Rep. Harris, Rep. Schollossberg, Rep. Salisbury, Rep. Kazeem, Rep. Solomon, Rep. Freeman*

### Talking Points:

- HB 363 designates Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha as state holidays, alongside Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.
- While the bill does not automatically create a day off, it encourages school districts and workplaces to recognize these holidays and make accommodations.
- Similar bipartisan support has already added Diwali as a state holiday.
- This bill affirms Pennsylvania's commitment to religious inclusion and equal treatment for Muslim students and employees.
- It also ensures those who take leave for Eid may do so without penalty or lost pay (paid-holiday structure).

**Ask:** To support and co-sponsor HB 363 to make Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha state holidays and affirm Pennsylvania's commitment to religious inclusion and equal treatment.



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<b>Pennsylvania Muslim American Heritage &amp; Appreciation Month Resolution</b>	<b>-SUPPORT-</b>
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### Talking Points:

- In 2024, PA legislative bodies introduced resolutions designating March as Pennsylvania Muslim American Heritage & Appreciation Month.
- This resolution aims to recognize the significant contributions of the Muslim community in the state and promote understanding, appreciation, and awareness to combat anti-Muslim Prejudice.

**Ask:** To build on that momentum, we ask that the 2025 General Assembly adopt a new or recurring resolution designating January 2026 (in coordination with Federal advocacy efforts) as Pennsylvania Muslim American Heritage & Appreciation Month.

- We further ask that this resolution:
  - be co-sponsored in both the House and Senate;
  - include language to affirm the contributions, diversity, and civic service of Muslim Pennsylvanians;
  - include a clause making it an annual or re-affirmable designation;
  - call for public awareness, educational outreach, and official recognition events in the Capitol.
- If a standalone resolution is not feasible, we request that Muslim American recognition be incorporated into broader heritage or inclusion resolutions or commemorative bills during 2025.



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<b>Halal Meals Accommodations</b>	<b>-SUPPORT-</b>
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**Talking Points:**

- Implementing halal meals in state institutions (including prisons, hospitals, and schools) promotes equity, inclusivity, and religious freedom.
- Halal guidelines emphasize cleanliness, humane treatment of animals, and health-conscious eating.
- Providing halal options ensures that Muslim students, patients, and incarcerated individuals can access nutritious and religious-dietary meals.
- This policy also helps address food insecurity and demonstrates the state's commitment to diversity and respect for religious practices.

**Ask:** Would your office commit to supporting legislation that ensures halal meal access in schools and other state-funded institutions and/or consider taking a leadership role in advancing it?

<b>Religious Accommodations for Incarcerated Muslims</b>	<b>-SUPPORT-</b>
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**Talking Points:**

- Recent rollbacks have removed Eid meal accommodations for incarcerated Muslims.
- Protecting the religious rights of incarcerated individuals is essential to equity and constitutional compliance.
- Institutions should provide religious accommodations for incarcerated individuals of any religion, using states with programs regarding this as an example, as well as allowing the Department of corrections to provide such accommodations without government interest.

**Ask:** We urge legislators to contact their local state correctional institutions and county facilities to ensure religious accommodations, including halal meals and holiday observance, are upheld.



# MUSLIM CAPITOL DAY | LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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## Economic Equity & Community Safety

Increased State Funding for NonProfit Security Grants	-SUPPORT-
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### Talking Points:

- The Federal administration put forth a DHS (Department of Homeland Security) FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) grant to houses of worship that includes discriminatory language on DEI, immigrant protections, and the right to boycott that prevented many mosques from applying to these federal security grants.
- While increased funding from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency the state Nonprofit Security Grant Program is much appreciated, we would like our Senators and Representatives to work toward:
  - a) Increasing the funding levels given discriminatory practices at the Federal level
  - b) Loosen matching funds requirements that hold back many cash-strapped mosques and other houses of worship to apply or to request finding levels much below their actual needs.

**Ask:** For legislators to increase funding towards nonprofits with a specific focus on marginalized individuals.



# MUSLIM CAPITOL DAY | LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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## Criminal & Immigrant Justice

<b><a href="#">HB 1880</a> Officer Visibility Act &amp; <a href="#">SB 1071</a>: Unmask ICE</b>	<b>-SUPPORT-</b>
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*Prime Sponsor: Rep Paul Friel ; Sen Cappelletti*

*Co- Sponsors: Rep. Hohenstein, Rep. Krajewski, Rep. Pielli, Rep. Scott, Rep. Waxman, Rep. Webster, Rep. Fiedler, Rep. Salisbury; Sen. Saval, Sen. Muth, Sen. Street, Sen. Fontana, Sen. Kearney, Sen. Tartaglione, Sen. Haywood, Sen. Collett*

### Talking Points:

- Recent incidents of federal agents operating without visible identification, including Homeland Security and U.S. Border Patrol, have eroded public trust and created safety risks.
- Transparent identification of officers supports public safety by enabling:
  - Clear recognition of who is acting with governmental authority
  - The ability of community members to document, challenge, or report misconduct
  - Improved trust between law enforcement and communities
- These bills ensure officers cannot hide badge numbers, agency affiliation, or personal identity while interacting with the public.
- Clear identification improves safety for officers and civilians by reducing escalation, eliminating confusion about impersonation, and protecting the legitimacy of law enforcement.

**Ask:** Will you co-sponsor both HB 1880 and SB 1071 to ensure trust and safety for all Pennsylvanians?





## MUSLIM CAPITOL DAY | LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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<b><u>Welcoming Schools</u>: Ensuring PA Schools are Safe Places for All Students</b>	<b>-SUPPORT-</b>
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*Sponsor: Rep. Joseph Hohenstein*

*Co-Sponsors: Rep. Cepeda-Freytiz, Rep. Khan, Rep. Mayes, Rep. Burgos*

### Talking Points:

- Recent changes at the federal level have raised concerns not only about how immigration enforcement could impact students, but also about the safety of our schools and the strength of our neighborhoods.
- This bill will require school districts to adopt clear procedures for responding to immigration enforcement. These steps will protect student privacy, give administrators and staff clear guidance, and affirm schools as welcoming places for all.
- School districts will designate a point person prepared to interact with ICE agents and ensure proper procedures are followed.
- Signage will clearly mark private areas of the school where non-staff and non-students may only enter if presenting a judicial warrant.
- Any documents, warrants, or subpoenas presented by ICE will be reviewed by an attorney, and all actions will be documented, including copies of officer identification.
- Robust training for all school personnel so that they understand the policy, not only so that they can follow it but also so they can help answer questions from parents and students

**Ask:** Support the bill to ensure all Pennsylvania schools have a comprehensive plan to protect students and maintain safe, welcoming learning spaces.



## MUSLIM CAPITOL DAY | LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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Criminal Justice Reform Efforts	-SUPPORT-
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### Talking Points:

- We support reforms that address parole, probation, and gun violence prevention, including these previous bills that we advocated for, SB 838 and HB 1678. We want to continue advocating for these still very relevant issues impacting our communities.
- **HB178:**
  - An Act amending Titles 61 (Prisons and Parole) and 63 (Professions and Occupations (State Licensed) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general administration, providing for earned vocational training and education credit; in Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, further providing for parole power and for short sentence parole; and, in powers and duties, further providing for consideration of criminal convictions.
- **SB 838: Prime Sponsor Sen. Lisa Baker:**
  - Our communities need solutions that empower youth, prevent over-criminalization, and dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline.
- We encourage lawmakers to consult directly with impacted communities and we stand ready to facilitate those connections.

**Ask:** To support any legislation regarding parolees integration into society as well as access to basic human rights. Along with this, we urge legislators to implement and support any youth prevention programs that prevent over-criminalization.



## MUSLIM CAPITOL DAY | LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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<a href="#"><u>House Bill 1518</u></a> : Drivers Licenses for All Pennsylvanians (Drive PA Forward)	-SUPPORT-
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*Prime Sponsor: Rep. Burgos*

*Co-Sponsors: Rep.Hohenstein, Rep.Rabb, Rep.Sanchez, Rep. Pielli, Rep.Nelson, Rep.Hill-Evans, Rep.Williams, Rep.Cepeda*

### Talking Points:

- HB 1518 allows residents without a Social Security Number to apply for a driver's license using secure alternatives such as:
  - A federal taxpayer identification number (ITIN);
  - A valid foreign passport or consular ID;
  - Certified records of birth, marriage, or adoption.
- This bill promotes road safety, community stability, and economic participation for immigrant families who contribute to Pennsylvania's growth.

**Ask:** Support this piece of legislation in order to help undocumented individuals obtain necessities and contribute to the state of PA.



# MUSLIM CAPITOL DAY | LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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## Democracy & Civic Access

<a href="#"><u>House Bill 1396</u></a> : Omnibus Election Reform	-SUPPORT-
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*Prime Sponsor: Speaker McClinton*

*Co-Sponsors: Rep. Venkat, Rep. Inglis III, Rep. Khan, Rep.Green, Rep.Kazeem, Rep. Webster, Rep.Warren, Rep.Davis*

### Talking Points:

- HB 1396 is an omnibus reform bill that would
  - (1) expand voting access (e.g., machine-based early voting, standardized ballot drop box requirements, pre-registration for 16- and 17-year olds);
  - (2) modernize and secure our elections (e.g., electronic poll books, recount reform); and
  - (3) address administrative challenges through practical improvements to mail ballot procedures.

**Ask:** Support HB1396 to expand voting access, modernize election security, and strengthen administrative processes for Pennsylvania elections.