

Dear Honorable Members of the State Government,

I am writing to urge you to consider designating Eid al-Fitr and/or Eid al-Adha as official state holidays. This recognition would not only honor the diverse cultural and religious fabric of our state but also promote inclusivity, equity, and respect for all residents.

1. Acknowledging a Growing Population

Muslims constitute a significant and growing portion of our state's population. By recognizing Eid as a holiday, the state government would demonstrate its commitment to valuing the contributions and presence of Muslim communities. This acknowledgment would foster a sense of belonging and inclusion, ensuring that all residents feel seen and respected.

2. Promoting Religious Equity

Currently, state holidays predominantly reflect Christian traditions, such as Christmas and Easter. Recognizing Eid would help balance this representation and ensure that the state's holiday calendar reflects the diversity of its residents. This step would align with the principles of religious freedom and equality enshrined in our Constitution.

3. Economic and Social Benefits

Designating Eid as a holiday would allow Muslim employees, students, and families to fully observe their religious practices without fear of penalty or discrimination. This would lead to increased productivity, morale, and overall well-being within the workforce and educational institutions. Additionally, it would encourage cultural exchange and understanding among all residents, strengthening social cohesion.

4. Aligning with National and Global Trends

Many states, cities, and countries around the world have already recognized Eid as an official holiday. By joining this movement, our state would position itself as a leader in inclusivity and progressive values, enhancing its reputation both nationally and internationally.

5. A Symbol of Unity and Respect

Establishing Eid as a holiday would send a powerful message of unity and respect for all faiths. It would underscore the state's commitment to celebrating diversity and fostering an environment where everyone, regardless of their religious background, feels valued and respected.

In conclusion, recognizing Eid as a state holiday is not just a symbolic gesture—it is a meaningful step toward building a more inclusive and equitable society. I urge you to consider this proposal and take action to ensure that our state's policies reflect the diversity and values of its people.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ifraax Saciid-Ciise

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Lewiston
LD 724

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