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Testimony of Rep. Rafael Macias in support of
LD 724, An Act to Recognize Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha as State Holidays
Before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and esteemed members of the State and Local Government Committee. My name is Rafael Macias, and I represent House District 51, which includes a part of Topsham. I am here today to testify in support of **LD 724, An Act to Recognize Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha as State Holidays**.

A priest, a rabbi, and an imam are standing on the beach around a giant beach ball. The priest looks at his side of the enormous beach ball and announces, "This beach ball is red.", to which the rabbi declares, "This beach ball is yellow." then the imam proclaims, "This beach ball is blue."
All are telling their truth.

Our country was founded on the principle of religious freedom, yet our federal and state-recognized holidays overwhelmingly reflect one faith tradition. While Christmas and Easter are observed as public holidays and Jewish holidays like Hanukkah and Rosh Hashanah receive cultural recognition, our commitment to true religious freedom is incomplete without extending the same acknowledgment to our Muslim neighbors.

Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adhi, both observed as days of peace, gratitude, and community, hold profound significance for millions of Americans. Recognizing these holidays is not about preference; it is about fairness. If we truly believe in freedom of religion, then that freedom must be reflected in our public institutions, including the days we set aside for observance and reflection.

By formally recognizing these two Islamic holidays, we affirm that America's promise of religious liberty is not selective but inclusive. We send a message that all who live, work, and worship here are equally valued.

This is not just about a calendar change; it is about the character of our nation. I urge you to support this measure and take one small but meaningful step toward a different perspective for a more inclusive and representative society. After all, God can be observed from all angles, and now is the only time to do it.

Thank you.