

**STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD**  
Before the  
**COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**  
**SUBCOMMITTEE THE CONSTITUTION AND LIMITED GOVERNMENT**  
of the  
**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Hearing on  
**"SHARIA-FREE AMERICA: WHY POLITICAL ISLAM & SHARIA LAW ARE  
INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE U.S. CONSTITUTION: PART II"**

May 13, 2026

**Submitted by:**

**Interfaith Alliance**

Interfaith Alliance submits this testimony to respond to the hearing, “Sharia-Free America: Why Political Islam & Sharia Law are Incompatible with the U.S. Constitution: Part II” and to offer our strong opposition to the discriminatory premises underlying it.

This hearing is not a good-faith inquiry into constitutional law. It is the latest in a long, troubling line of government-sponsored attacks designed to plant fear and conspiracy theories about an entire religious community for political purposes. We are deeply concerned about what this hearing represents, not only in isolation but as part of a sustained effort to normalize anti-Muslim bigotry in official government spaces.

Religious freedom has never been perfectly realized in this country, but it has always been an abiding principle. A religious freedom that excludes an entire faith community is not religious freedom at all. This Subcommittee has an obligation to that standard.

**Today’s Hearing Contributes to the Rise in Anti-Muslim Hate**

In April 2026, the Center for the Study of Organized Hate released a new report shining a light on the resurgence of anti-Muslim bigotry among elected officials. The report documents that official Republican social media accounts published more than 1,100 posts fueling anti-Muslim sentiment in a span of just 13 months, from February 2025 to March 2026.

Central to this campaign is one of the most insidious anti-Muslim conspiracy theories: the suggestion that Sharia law poses a unique threat to the American judicial system. In Arabic, the word “Sharia” means “path” or “way.” It refers to the broad tradition of teachings about how

Muslims should live out their Islamic commitments. For decades, anti-Muslim groups have spread conspiracies about Sharia law, arguing that it threatens American courts with little to no evidence. In reality, these groups have used these conspiracies as a pretext to dramatically curtail the rights of Muslims. Indeed, this Congress now has a “Sharia Free America Caucus,” which launched in December 2025. In just four months, 62 members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives have reportedly joined, despite the absence of any evidence that such a threat even exists.

When Members of Congress question the loyalty of American Muslims, describe Islam as foreign to American identity, or use their official platforms to spread fear and conspiracy theories about Muslim communities, they are not raising legitimate constitutional concerns. They are making a claim about who this country belongs to. This hearing must be understood in that context.

### **America’s Promise of Religious Freedom Must Extend to All**

A particular historical narrative has driven much of the rhetoric surrounding this hearing – the idea that the United States was founded as a Christian nation, by Christians, for Christians, and that anyone outside that tradition exists here only on sufferance. The founders were not building a Christian theocracy. They wrote the First Amendment specifically to prevent it.

The founders designed the First Amendment to prevent the government from taking sides in matters of religion. Thomas Jefferson, writing about the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, the model for the Free Exercise and Establishment Clauses:

"Where the preamble declares, that coercion is a departure from the plan of the holy author of our religion, an amendment was proposed, by inserting the word ‘Jesus Christ,’ so that it should read, ‘a departure from the plan of Jesus Christ, the holy author of our religion;’ the insertion was rejected by a great majority, in proof that they meant to comprehend, within the mantle of its protection, the Jew and the Gentile, the Christian and Mahometan, the Hindoo, and Infidel of every denomination."

The argument that Islam is foreign to American values and incompatible with constitutional governance is a distortion of American history. Jefferson named Muslims explicitly. The founding promise of religious freedom was written to include them.

Those who advance the Christian nation myth must rewrite this history, because the actual history contradicts their argument. The founding ideal is religious freedom for all, not the elevation of one faith tradition above others.

Anti-Muslim bigotry is not only an injustice to American Muslims, it undermines religious freedom for everyone. When the government singles out one religious community for suspicion and restriction, it weakens the constitutional architecture that protects all of us. The Establishment Clause and the Free Exercise Clause do not protect religious freedom for some faiths and not others. They protect it for all, or they protect it for none.

The promise of religious freedom must include American Muslims. We are now approaching 250 years since the Declaration of Independence. The most genuinely patriotic thing this Subcommittee can do in this semiquincentennial year is to be honest about what our nation's founding actually promised and to refuse to stop fighting until we have lived up to it.

Interfaith Alliance urges the Subcommittee to reject the discriminatory premises underlying this hearing, to uphold the First Amendment's guarantee of religious freedom for every American, and to reaffirm that the Constitution's promise belongs to all of us, no matter our faith.