

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R26-0866.01 Mikaela Malouf x5492

**SJR26-021**

---

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Jodeh,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Zokaie,**

---

**Senate Committees**

**House Committees**

---

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 26-021**

101 **CONCERNING DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF APRIL AS NATIONAL ARAB**  
102 **AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH.**

---

1 WHEREAS, For over a century, Arab Americans have been  
2 making valuable contributions to every aspect of American society: In  
3 medicine, law, business, education, technology, government, military  
4 service, and culture; and

5 WHEREAS, Since migrating to the United States, individuals of  
6 Arab descent have shared their rich culture and traditions with neighbors  
7 and friends, while also serving as fine examples of model citizens and  
8 public servants; and

9 WHEREAS, Arab Americans have occupied all areas of industry,  
10 such as: Lebanese-American Philip Hitti, who established the first

*Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.  
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

1 Department of Semitic Languages at Princeton University;  
2 Egyptian-American Dr. Farouk El-Baz, who was instrumental in planning  
3 the Apollo moon landings; Algerian-American Dr. Elias Zerhouni, who  
4 was director of the National Institutes of Health in the 2000s; and  
5 Iraqi-American Dr. Mona Hanna, whose research exposed the Flint Water  
6 Crisis; and

7 WHEREAS, Arab migrants brought with them to the United States  
8 their resilient family values, strong work ethic, dedication to education,  
9 and diversity in faith and creed that have added strength to our great  
10 democracy; and

11 WHEREAS, Arab Americans have enriched our society by sharing  
12 in the entrepreneurial American spirit that makes our nation free and  
13 prosperous; and

14 WHEREAS, The celebration of Arab American ancestry and  
15 cultural heritage educates our fellow Americans and counters  
16 misconceptions and harmful stereotyping; and

17 WHEREAS, Arab Americans join all Americans in their desire to  
18 see a peaceful and diverse society, one in which every individual is  
19 treated equally and feels safe; and

20 WHEREAS, On April 19, 2021, the White House issued a letter  
21 recognizing the month of April as National Arab American Heritage  
22 Month, the first recognition of this kind issued on a federal level; and

23 WHEREAS, In the United States, the Arab American community  
24 is made up of approximately 3.7 million individuals, 42,000 of whom call  
25 Colorado home; and

26 WHEREAS, Over 3,000 households in Denver county alone report  
27 Arabic as their spoken language; and

28 WHEREAS, Colorado has been home to Arab Americans since the  
29 late 19th century, with the first major wave of Arab Americans arriving  
30 in the state between 1880 and 1890; and

31 WHEREAS, The incredible contributions and heritage of Arab  
32 Americans have helped us build a better nation and state; now, therefore,

1                    *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-fifth General Assembly*  
2                    *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

3                    (1) That the General Assembly recognizes the contributions that  
4                    Arab Americans have made to the development of the United States and  
5                    the state of Colorado;

6                    (2) That the General Assembly officially designates the month of  
7                    April as National Arab American Heritage Month, to be observed yearly  
8                    as a time dedicated to recognizing the valuable contributions of Arab  
9                    Americans; and

10                    (3) That the General Assembly urges Colorado residents and  
11                    institutions to actively participate in this special observance.