

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 16

Whereas, for Missourians and lawmakers of the Jewish faith, Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, is one of the most holy days in the Jewish religion; and

Whereas, this year, Rosh Hashanah was celebrated on September 10, 2018; and

Whereas, the Governor called an extraordinary session of the General Assembly which commenced on September 10th; and

Whereas, by beginning an extraordinary session on September 10th, Jewish lawmakers and government employees were required to make the decision to either recognize this important Jewish holiday or to work and be present in Jefferson City; and

Whereas, the decision to begin this extraordinary session during Rosh Hashanah could, unfortunately, be viewed as sending a message to the Jewish community throughout this great state that Jewish High Holy Days are not important or deserving of consideration; and

Whereas, in addition to Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, is the most holy day of the year on the Jewish calendar; and

Whereas, inclusion and respect for a diverse legislature and electorate, unless constitutionally required or in the case of emergency, would be best acknowledged by refraining from scheduling legislative session on those holidays, the dates of which differ from year to year; and

Whereas, while celebrated for very different purposes, in terms of their sacred nature, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are analogous to the Christian sacred holidays of Christmas and Easter; and

Whereas, there is no evidence to suggest that the current scheduling of the extraordinary session was intended to show any ill will toward any person of the Jewish faith; and

Whereas, it is probable that the date of September 10, 2018, was chosen without knowledge of the holiday or its significance when this extraordinary session was called:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-ninth General Assembly, First Extraordinary Session of the Second Regular Session, hereby urge all Governors and legislative leaders to refrain from scheduling future regular or extraordinary sessions of the Missouri General Assembly on any important religious holidays such as the Jewish High Holy Days; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the Governor.