



American Islamic Forum for Democracy

May 16, 2012

The Honorable Sam Brownback
State of Kansas
300 SW 10th Ave Ste 212S
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Governor Brownback:

I am writing to you today as a proud American Muslim who supports the *Kansas American Laws for American Courts* legislation and to urge your signing. As the president and founder of the [American Islamic Forum for Democracy \(AIFD\)](http://www.aifdemocracy.org), I feel this legislation is vital to protecting the sanctity of the American legal system, by barring Kansas courts from enforcing any foreign law, if doing so violates any rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and/or the Kansas Constitution.

AIFD is a national American Muslim organization that has supported the need for similar legislation across the country when worded correctly, as the Kansas law is, since it does not single out any specific religion. Like many Americans, members of AIFD have been observing the efforts of a growing number of state legislatures, which are seeking to address the incompatibility of various shari'ah court systems around the world with the principles and foundations of our Constitutional republic and its laws. As American Muslims, we believe that the law should treat people of all faiths equally, while protecting Muslims and non-Muslims alike from extremist attempts to use the legal instrument of shari'ah (also known as Islamic jurisprudence, or *fiqh*) to incubate, within the West, a highly politicized and dangerous understanding of Islam that is generally known as "Islamism," or "political Islam."

Please understand that without laws like this, extrajudicial arbitration systems can exist in a vacuum insulated without accountability to your state or our federal constitution. We support these laws not because we want to limit in any way the free exercise of religion. But to the contrary, we want to protect Muslims and non-Muslims alike from oppression within theocratic legal systems that seek sanctuary in our states under the guise of religious freedom.

We see no evidence that your signing of this legislation will adversely impact the free exercise of our personal pietistic observance of Islam. We recognize that not only Muslims, but also Jews, Christians and all people of faith need the government to protect their right to peaceful assembly, mediation and arbitration free of coercion, but also within the bounds of American constitutional principles.

Muslim Brotherhood legacy groups such as CAIR and other Islamist surrogates in the U.S. are trying their best to portray any opposition to manifestations of shari'ah law as "racism" and "discrimination

against Muslims,” but at AIFD we denounce this as fear-mongering and a playing of the race card, which only serves to mask the Islamists’ highly politicized agenda. AIFD is based on our strong commitment to the First Amendment’s Establishment Clause and the separation between religion and state. Unfortunately, Islamist groups would like to compromise this separation and provide cover to medieval, misogynistic and homophobic laws that no Muslim is obligated to demand as public law.

The Kansas American Laws for American Courts bill is good for Muslims in Kansas and would be in our eyes for Muslims across the U.S., and I urge you to sign this legislation and protect the sanctity of American courts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Zundi Jasser'. The signature is stylized and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

M. Zundi Jasser

President, American Islamic Forum for Democracy