April 23, 2020

Assalamu-Alaikum,

I am pleased to wish a ‘Ramadan Mubarak’ to Muslim-Americans and Muslims worldwide observing Ramadan. As one of three Muslim Members of the United States Congress, it continues to be one of the greatest honors of my life to serve as a representative and an advocate for the diverse, dynamic and fast-growing Muslim community across our nation, particularly during this very sacred time.

The spread of COVID-19 has made this year’s observance like no other in recent memory. We are resigned to celebrate Ramadan without the physical gatherings of friends, family and other loved ones that make this time of the year so meaningful. Though we all experience sadness and disappointment at this prospect, we know it’s right and necessary to protect ourselves and our loved ones from the spread of this deadly virus.

It is my hope, however, that this unforeseen challenge will make Ramadan even more meaningful by helping us all better appreciate the value of sacrifice that defines this holy month. We must forgo many familiar comforts in order to fulfill a greater need and achieve a greater good. Through these actions, we can grow closer to Allah and to those around us.

Though many of us may be physically apart during Ramadan, I have no doubt that the spirit of unity among our community will grow stronger. As we gather virtually to hold Iftars, to encourage one another in our fasting, and more, we will be reminded of the beauty of our faith and its ability to hold us together. Through times of uncertainty, this will remain constant.

Sincerely,

André Carson
Member of Congress