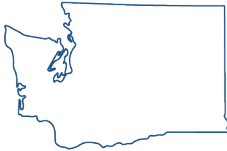


MARIA CANTWELL

WASHINGTON



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

April 29, 2022

Dear friends of the Muslim American community,

Salaam Alaikum, and Eid Mubarak to all Washingtonians and Muslim Americans who are celebrating another end to the holy month of Ramadan with their families, friends, and communities. I would also like to extend my gratitude to Islamic Relief USA for continuing to partner with local organizations to provide humanitarian relief to our most distraught communities throughout the pandemic.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ramadan looked a lot different than it ever has. But thanks to the availability of the COVID-19 vaccines and boosters, this year Ramadan looks and feels like it traditionally has. Even in the face of hardship and uncertainty as we keep climbing out of this pandemic, Muslim Americans have shown resilience by continuing to exude the spirit of Ramadan. No matter the obstacles, our Muslim brothers and sisters continue to give thanks for the good in life, make Zakat by donating to organizations that help our most vulnerable, and bring our communities together during iftar so everyone can break their fast together.

I am especially grateful to Islamic Relief USA for its work in relieving our most vulnerable and hardest hit communities domestically and abroad. Islamic Relief USA has over 3,200 active supporters in Washington state including organizations such as Muslim Housing Services and Wasat in Seattle, and Peace Catalyst International in Shoreline. These organizations, in partnership with Islamic Relief USA, helped provide food boxes to households in their communities that struggle to keep nutritious food on their tables for suhoor and iftar. Local organizations like those in my state are part of the success of Islamic Relief USA's Food Box and Pantry grants program that is funding over 40 food pantries across the country, delivering approximately 11,000 food boxes in 70 cities across 25 states, helping improve the food security of over 100,000 Muslim Americans during the month of Ramadan this year.

Shukran jazilan again to Islamic Relief USA for your years of impactful work in anti-poverty and humanitarian contributions that help reinforce our community's sense of belonging, unity, and security, especially throughout the pandemic. Eid Mubarak to all who are celebrating, and inshallah I wish you all a blessed and happy end to the holy month of Ramadan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maria Cantwell".

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator