

2018 -- S 2696

LC004251

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS TO RECOGNIZE WHITE NATIONALIST
AND NEO-NAZI GROUPS AS TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS

Introduced By: Senators Goldin, Miller, Nesselbush, Quezada, and Crowley

Date Introduced: March 20, 2018

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

1 WHEREAS, White nationalist groups espouse an ideology of white supremacy and the
2 "alleged" inferiority of non-whites. They believe that white identity should be a paramount
3 principle in the governing of western nations and they support non-democratic means to bring this
4 evil philosophy to the forefront; and

5 WHEREAS, The shocking and appalling events that took place on August 12, 2017, in
6 Charlottesville, Virginia, confirm that white nationalism and neo-Nazism remain very real threats
7 to social and racial progress; and

8 WHEREAS, Throughout the course of our nation's history, white nationalism has
9 supported and promoted coercion and violent repression of individuals solely on the basis of their
10 race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, and immigration status; and

11 WHEREAS, Today, white nationalism has attempted to reinvent itself, self-identifying as
12 the "alt-right," yet their present-day rhetoric and terrorism conjure painful memories of our
13 nation's past; and

14 WHEREAS, While free speech is a fundamental and precious value for almost all
15 Americans, white nationalist and neo-Nazi groups promote agendas that are in irreconcilable
16 conflict with our nation's foundational principles of liberty and justice for all; and

17 WHEREAS, White nationalism and neo-Nazism are continuing to grow as menaces to
18 societal order that seek to reignite social animosities, reverse improvements in race relations,
19 divide the nation, and foment hatred that leads to ethnic eradication; and

1 WHEREAS, The white nationalists and neo-Nazi message of racial and social intolerance
2 has led to senseless acts of violence that continue to terrorize members of racial, ethnic and
3 religious minority communities; now, therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
5 hereby strongly denounces and opposes the totalitarian impulses, violent terrorism, xenophobic
6 biases, and bigoted ideologies that are promoted by white nationalists and neo-Nazis; and be it
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That this Senate urges law enforcement to recognize these white nationalist
9 and neo-Nazi groups as terrorist organizations, and to pursue the criminal elements of these
10 domestic terrorist organizations in the same manner and with the same intensity used to protect
11 the United States from other manifestations of terrorism; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
13 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of
14 the United States, the members of the Rhode Island Congressional delegation, and the Honorable
15 Gina M. Raimondo, Governor of the State of Rhode Island.

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