

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

DENOUNCING AND OPPOSING WHITE NATIONALIST AND NEO-NAZI GROUPS

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

Date Introduced: April 30, 2019

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, on October 27, 2018, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and on April 27,
7 2019, in Poway, California, confirm that white nationalism and neo-Nazism remain very real
8 threats to social and racial progress; and

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

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

15 WHEREAS, Today, white nationalist and neo-Nazi groups often promote agendas that
16 are in irreconcilable conflict with many of our nation's foundational principles of liberty and
17 justice for all; and

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

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

4 WHEREAS, Rhode Island was founded by Roger Williams on the principle of religious
5 tolerance; and

6 WHEREAS, Rhode Island is the home to America's oldest synagogue, the Touro
7 Synagogue, in Newport; now therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
9 hereby strongly denounces and opposes the totalitarian impulses, violent terrorism, xenophobic
10 biases, and bigoted ideologies that are promoted by white nationalists and neo-Nazis; and be it
11 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.

=====
LC002455
=====