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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONDEMNING THE ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND INSURRECTION COMMITTED AT THE SEAT OF OUR COUNTRY'S DEMOCRACY AND CALLING FOR THE REMOVAL OF PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP

Introduced By: Representative Brandon C. Potter

Date Introduced: January 12, 2021

Referred To: House Judiciary

1 WHEREAS, The peaceful transition of power is a hallmark of the United States as a
2 democratic republic – signaling the government’s responsibility to respect the will of the people
3 and providing legitimacy to our elections; uniting us as a people behind our country, our shared
4 ideals, and a constitutional form of government; and

5 WHEREAS, It is the belief of Americans that the leadership of our government should be
6 selected by the people through free and fair elections, not through violence or the whims of
7 authoritarians leaders; and

8 WHEREAS, Since losing the election on November 3, 2020, President Donald J. Trump
9 has continued to lie and mislead his supporters about the results of the election and has tried to
10 coerce election officials into changing election results and disenfranchising voters; and

11 WHEREAS, On Wednesday, January 6, 2021, President Trump held a rally in
12 Washington D.C. calling on his supporters to “fight like hell” and march to the U.S. Capitol
13 Building where the Joint Session of Congress was meeting to certify the electoral votes from all
14 50 states and the District of Columbia in order to confirm President-elect Joe Biden's victory; and

15 WHEREAS, Incited by outright lies and misinformation, and driven by the
16 misconception that their actions could encumber the true and just democratic process, the deadly
17 mob assaulted police officers, scaled walls, and broke windows and doors as they forced their
18 way into the U.S. Capitol building; and

19 WHEREAS, Americans watched with disappointment, disbelief, and horror as hundreds

1 of insurrectionists stormed the building intent on wreaking havoc and stopping the progress
2 towards a peaceful transition of power. Insurgents brought with them zip-ties, raided key offices,
3 and stole important documents and electronics. A crowd of rioters chanted “Hang Mike Pence”
4 and a noose was erected outside the Capitol. Reports surfaced of guns, tear gas, assaults on
5 Capitol Police, and vandalism inside the historic building and revered rotunda; and

6 WHEREAS, Legislators were quickly evacuated from the House and Senate Chambers as
7 the mob wandered the hallways, defacing offices and public property, and resisting attempts by
8 Capitol Police to bring about peace and safety, resulting in the death of at least six people; and

9 WHEREAS, Showing the resilience of our country, the Joint Session of Congress
10 reconvened on the evening of January 6th to certify President-elect Joe Biden’s electoral victory
11 and worked through the night until they completed the certification early the morning of January
12 7th; and

13 WHEREAS, Even after the events of January 6th, President Trump has continued to
14 spread lies and misinformation to his supporters, threatening the security of the United States and
15 undermining the integrity of our most cherished institutions, and continuing to serve as a threat to
16 our country so long as he holds office; and

17 WHEREAS, The strength of America’s democracy is in our ability to come together
18 during times of strife and peril. The day of calculated destruction will not change our destiny or
19 our confidence that there are brighter days ahead. On January 20th, 2021, a new era of hope and
20 unity will begin to rebuild our country with the consensus and trust that our forefathers imagined
21 as they wrote the Constitution and laid the foundation for the greatest country in the world; now,
22 therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
24 vehemently condemns the acts of violence and insurrection committed at the seat of our country's
25 democracy and calls on the removal of President Donald J. Trump through the exercise of the
26 25th Amendment or Congressional impeachment; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
28 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Rhode Island's Congressional Delegation.

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