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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019**

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**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, Throughout the course of our nation's history, white nationalism has  
6 supported and promoted coercion and violent repression of individuals solely on the basis of their  
7 race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, and immigration status. They have attempted to  
8 reinvent themselves, self-identifying as the "alt-right," yet their present-day rhetoric and terrorism  
9 conjure painful memories of our nation's past; and; and

10           WHEREAS, In August and October of 2018, hate groups organized by Resist Marxism  
11 attempted to hold rallies at Rhode Island's State House in order to promote racist and white  
12 supremacy agendas that are in irreconcilable conflict with our State's and our Nation's  
13 foundational principles of liberty and justice for all. Counter protesters were organized by Ocean  
14 State Against Hate, a local antifascist coalition. At both events, as is often the case with these hate  
15 group's demonstrations, the rallies turned violent and police were forced to disperse everyone;  
16 and

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

20           WHEREAS, Across the country, shocking and appalling events in Charlottesville,

1 Virginia, on August 12, 2017, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on October 27, 2018, and in Poway,  
2 California on April 27, 2019, confirm that white nationalism and neo-Nazism remain very real  
3 threats to social and racial progress; and

4 WHEREAS, In Rhode Island, in May of 2016, a Pawtucket synagogue was defaced by a  
5 swastika, in February of 2018, racist flyers were distributed in the City of Providence, and in  
6 December of 2018, racist stickers were affixed to signs in Johnston. As each of these events came  
7 to light, politicians, religious leaders, community activists and concerned residents came together  
8 to denounce the cowardice and to stand against the racism and hate; and

9 WHEREAS, Rhode Island was founded by Roger Williams on the principle of religious  
10 tolerance and is the home to America's oldest synagogue, the Touro Synagogue, in Newport: and

11 WHEREAS, White nationalism and neo-Nazism are continuing to grow as menaces to  
12 societal order that seek to reignite social animosities, reverse improvements in race relations,  
13 divide the nation, and foment hatred that leads to ethnic eradication; now, therefore be it

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

18 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
19 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of  
20 the United States, the members of the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation, and the Honorable  
21 Gina M. Raimondo, Governor of the State of Rhode Island.

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