

# State of Vermont Senate Chamber



## Montpelier, Vermont Senate Resolution

By All Members of the Senate,

**S.R. 5.** Senate resolution relating to declaring the Vermont Senate's continuing dedication to its historic and fundamental values of democracy, diversity, and pluralism.

*Whereas*, Vermont has a long and proud history of standing up for human rights and democratic values, and

*Whereas*, the original Vermont Constitution of 1777 declared “all men are born free and independent,” and

*Whereas*, this founding document included the common benefits clause, abolished adult slavery, guaranteed freedom of religion and speech, and provided in clause 8 of Chapter I “that all freemen having a sufficient evident common interest with, and attachment to the community, have a right to elect officers, or be elected into office,” and

*Whereas*, prior to the Civil War, the General Assembly defiantly refused to enforce fugitive slave laws of other jurisdictions, and

*Whereas*, while Vermont has been a leader in protecting civil liberties and ensuring individual rights, our State has erred on occasion and it is imperative that we learn from our past mistakes, and

*Whereas*, the Green Mountain State is—and must always be—a refuge of justice and opportunity for all persons, *now therefore be it*

### ***Resolved by the Senate:***

That the Senate of the State of Vermont will not acquiesce in any encroachment on our fundamental democratic values nor allow a reversal of generations of progress in the promotion of diversity, equality, pluralism, social justice, and mutual respect for one another, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Senate of the State of Vermont will oppose the weakening of federal laws that ensure and protect the rights of all Vermonters, regardless of a person’s ethnicity, legal residency status, place of birth, race, religion, or sexual orientation, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Senate of the State of Vermont will unfailingly defend our State’s progress towards a truly equal, pluralistic, and welcoming society, using every tool at our disposal, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Senate of the State of Vermont will oppose initiatives intended to reimpose longdiscarded federal laws or policies that limited the associational, political, and religious rights of some Americans, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Senate of the State of Vermont will not countenance the extinguishment of the Statue of Liberty’s flame of freedom that Emma Lazarus described so movingly in her poem, *The New Colossus*, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Senate of the State of Vermont declares its continuing dedication to defending our State’s historic and fundamental democratic values, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor and the Vermont Congressional Delegation.