

State of Vermont

Senate Chamber



Montpelier, Vermont

Joint Senate Resolution

By Senators Cummings, Campion, Lyons, MacDonald, and Sirotkin,

J.R.S. 18. Joint resolution in support of combating the rise in hate crimes and bigotry.

Whereas, since November 2016, there has been an increase in hate crimes throughout the nation, and

Whereas, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center, during the ten days following the election, there were nearly 900 reports of harassment and intimidation from throughout the country, and

Whereas, Vermonters are in a unique position to lead the country in fighting bigotry and hatred, and

Whereas, members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning (LGBTQ) community are concerned that rights and protections won over the years may be lost, and

Whereas, these concerns are focused on the atmosphere of hate, which the LGBTQ community fears may result in physical danger for them and members of other marginalized communities, and

Whereas, a particular concern of the LGBTQ community is that silence will allow bigotry to take root in Vermont, and

Whereas, the LGBTQ community is hopeful that Vermont's history of rejecting extremists and meeting the challenges of hate and bigotry with love and fierce resistance will continue to prevail, and

Whereas, the General Assembly is in strong accord with these sentiments, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly calls upon Vermonters to denounce hatred and to support and respect marginalized communities, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the General Assembly will protect and preserve laws that foster equality among all persons, *and be it further*

Resolved: That taking the actions addressed in this resolution upholds the proud Vermont tradition of Freedom and Unity, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Outright Vermont, the Pride Center of Vermont, Green Mountain Crossroads, and the Rainbow Umbrella of Central Vermont.