

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Judiciary to which was referred J.R.S.18 entitled  
3 “Joint resolution in support of combating the rise in hate crimes and bigotry”  
4 has considered the same and recommends striking out all after the title and  
5 inserting in lieu thereof the following:

6 *Whereas*, since the election cycle of 2016, there has been an increase in hate  
7 crimes throughout the nation, and

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

11 *Whereas*, Vermont is in a unique position to lead the country in fighting  
12 bigotry and hatred, and

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

16 *Whereas*, these concerns include the fear that the LGBTQ community and  
17 other marginalized communities may suffer physical danger, and

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

1        *Whereas*, the LGBTQ community is hopeful that Vermonters’ history of  
2        rejecting extremists and meeting the challenges of hate and bigotry with love  
3        and fierce resistance will continue to prevail, and

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

6        ***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

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

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

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

13       ***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this  
14       resolution to the Vermont Human Rights Commission and the LGBTQI  
15       Alliance of Vermont.

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17       (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Senator \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE