

**No. R-230. Joint resolution in support of combating the rise in hate crimes and bigotry.**

(J.R.S.18)

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

*Whereas*, since the election cycle of 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 throughout the country, and

*Whereas*, Vermont is 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 include the fear that the LGBTQ community and other marginalized communities may suffer physical danger, 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 Vermonters' 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 the Vermont Human Rights Commission and the LGBTQIA Alliance of Vermont.