

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.