

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 118

Introduced by Hunt, 8; Blood, 3; Bolz, 29; Bostelman, 23; Brandt, 32; Briese, 41; Cavanaugh, 6; Chambers, 11; Crawford, 45; DeBoer, 10; Dorn, 30; Geist, 25; Groene, 42; Halloran, 33; Hansen, B., 16; Hansen, M., 26; Hilgers, 21; Hilkemann, 4; Howard, 9; Kolowski, 31; Kolterman, 24; La Grone, 49; Lathrop, 12; Lindstrom, 18; Linehan, 39; McCollister, 20; McDonnell, 5; Morfeld, 46; Pansing Brooks, 28; Quick, 35; Scheer, 19; Slama, 1; Stinner, 48; Walz, 15; Wayne, 13; Williams, 36; Wishart, 27.

WHEREAS, a 2006 Federal Bureau of Investigation assessment defined a white supremacist as a pro-white person who believes that the white race is superior to all other races and was created to rule them. White supremacists view non-whites as subhuman and usually refer to them in derogatory terms; and

WHEREAS, the same 2006 intelligence assessment describes the domestic white-nationalist movement as seeking to promote, honor, and defend the white race. A white nationalist believes the white race is under attack from Jewish interests that dominate the media, banking, entertainment industries, and the government, which white nationalists refer to as the Zionist Occupied Government or ZOG, and that such interests act to the detriment of the white race. White nationalists view multiculturalism, diversity, and illegal immigration as direct assaults on the white race and race-mixing as akin to white genocide. White nationalists hope to appeal to mainstream whites, believing that the majority of white people do not understand the imminent or long-term threat to their race. Many white nationalists contend that a race war, often referred to as RAHOWA, or Racial Holy War, is a certainty; and

WHEREAS, white supremacy and white nationalism are contrary to the ideals of the United States of America, which was established according to the principle stated in the Declaration of Independence that all men are created equal, a principle that was updated in 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York, to include all people; and

WHEREAS, while our country has often fallen short of these ideals, patriotic Americans have sought to embody the founding values of our country by

rejecting white nationalism and white supremacy, embracing inclusive patriotism, and welcoming immigrants from across the globe who have continuously enriched our nation; and

WHEREAS, on April 27, 2019, a domestic terrorist armed with an assault rifle opened fire on worshipers in Chabad of Poway, a synagogue in Poway, near San Diego, California, killing Lori Kaye, 60, and injuring three others; and

WHEREAS, the perpetrator of this act of terrorism has also been linked to an arson blaze that blackened the walls of the Islamic Center of Escondido, a mosque in San Diego; and

WHEREAS, the perpetrator was motivated by white supremacy and white nationalism ideologies and inspired by the white-nationalist terrorist who killed fifty people in attacks on mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand at Friday prayer on March 15, 2019; and

WHEREAS, according to FBI statistics, hate crimes nationwide, including those in places of worship, increased in 2015, in 2016, and in 2017, the three most recent years for which data is available.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature condemns racist violence and domestic terrorist attacks motivated by white supremacy and white nationalism.

2. That the Legislature recognizes Lori Kaye of Poway, California, who was killed in the domestic terrorist attack in San Diego, California, and the three other individuals injured in such attack, and offers condolences to the family and friends of Lori Kaye and sympathy to those individuals recovering from injuries sustained during such attacks.

3. That the Legislature recognizes the hundreds of other individuals killed and injured in attacks motivated by religious hatred.

4. That the Legislature offers support for communities victimized by demonstrations of violent bigotry.

5. That the Legislature rejects groups that espouse racism, extremism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, white supremacy, and white nationalism

as hateful groups of intolerance contrary to the values of Nebraskans.

6. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Vice President of the United States, the President pro tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Nebraska's congressional delegation.