
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 964 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY SIMS, HANBIDGE, McNEILL, SOLOMON, KENYATTA,
BURGOS, BOYLE, HOHENSTEIN, CEPHAS, SCHWEYER, SCHLOSSBERG,
WHEATLEY, McCARTER, DeLUCA, SHUSTERMAN, BIZZARRO, DALEY,
KRUEGER, KINSEY, SANCHEZ, HOWARD, DONATUCCI AND McCLINTON,
AUGUST 7, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, AUGUST 7, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Censuring Representative Russ Diamond.

2 WHEREAS, During the COVID-19 global pandemic, Representative
3 Russ Diamond has made repeated public and transphobic attacks on
4 Pennsylvania Secretary of Health, Dr. Rachel Levine, a
5 transgender woman; and

6 WHEREAS, On July 29, following an extensive plea by the
7 Secretary of Health to stop the continued transphobic and
8 homophobic attacks against her, Representative Diamond publicly
9 mocked and mimicked the Secretary of Health's plea in a
10 statement released to the press and to the public via social
11 media; and

12 WHEREAS, Representative Diamond parroted and ridiculed the
13 Secretary of Health's calls for tolerance and acceptance of the
14 LGBTQ+ community, which still has no Statewide protection from
15 discrimination and faces unprecedented discrimination and
16 violence across this Commonwealth, by substituting the words

1 "unmasked community" for "LGBTQ+ communities" from a statement
2 made by the Secretary of Health; and

3 WHEREAS, Representative Diamond has made his objection to the
4 science, medicine and public health expertise that supports
5 Governor Wolf and Secretary Levine's statewide mask order; and

6 WHEREAS, Representative Diamond's general disdain for the
7 Secretary of Health has been well documented in his written
8 comments and legislative measures to impede the Secretary of
9 Health's authority in the Commonwealth; and

10 WHEREAS, That disdain has grown beyond any and all
11 professional disagreement or objection and is now manifest in
12 the type of discrimination and bigotry that the Pennsylvania
13 General Assembly and the population of Pennsylvania, as a whole,
14 must condemn in the strongest terms; and

15 WHEREAS, Representative Diamond's attacks on Secretary Levine
16 and the larger LGBTQ+ communities across Pennsylvania have made
17 her and other LGBTQ+ citizens fearful for their own safety
18 merely because they were exercising their constitutional right
19 to live authentic lives; and

20 WHEREAS, Representative Diamond also used his elected
21 position to intimidate, mock and ridicule the Secretary of
22 Health and others who identify as LGBTQ+ in this Commonwealth;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Under section 11 of Article II of the Constitution
25 of Pennsylvania, the House of Representatives has the exclusive
26 power to determine its rules, protect its members against
27 violence and expel a member; therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That, pursuant to section 11 of Article II of the
29 Constitution of Pennsylvania, the House of Representatives
30 censure Representative Russ Diamond for his actions, which tend

1 to bring the House of Representatives into dishonor and
2 disrepute; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That, pursuant to section 11 of Article II of the
4 Constitution of Pennsylvania, the House of Representatives
5 remove Representative Russ Diamond from his position as a member
6 of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, the Finance
7 Committee, the Gaming Oversight Committee and the State
8 Government Committee; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct that for
10 the remainder of the 2019-2020 Legislative Session, the House
11 not appoint Representative Russ Diamond to any standing, select
12 or special committee of the House, the General Assembly or any
13 agency, authority, board or commission.