

1 \_\_\_\_\_ JOINT RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

2 INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_

3 (Primary Sponsor)

4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF

5 MONTANA DECLARING THAT WHITE SUPREMACIST NEO-NAZI VIOLENCE IS DOMESTIC TERRORISM.

6

7 WHEREAS, federal law defines the term "domestic terrorism" as "activities that:

- 8 (A) involve acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of the United States
- 9 or of any state;
- 10 (B) appear to be intended:
- 11 (i) to intimidate or coerce a civilian population;
- 12 (ii) to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or
- 13 (iii) to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping; and
- 14 (C) occur primarily within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States"; and

15 WHEREAS, throughout the course of our nation's history, white nationalism has promoted intimidation

16 and violent repression of individuals solely on the basis of their race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, and

17 immigration status; and

18 WHEREAS, "racially and ethnically motivated violent extremists—specifically white supremacist

19 extremists...—will remain the most persistent and lethal threat in the [United States]", according to the United

20 States Department of Homeland Security's Homeland Threat Assessment from October 2020; and

21 WHEREAS, "[w]hite supremacists have demonstrated longstanding intent to target racial and religious

22 minorities, members of the LGBTQ+ community, politicians, and those they believe promote multiculturalism",

23 according to the United States Department of Homeland Security's Homeland Threat Assessment from October

24 2020, and that "[s]ince 2018, [white supremacist extremists] have conducted more lethal attacks in the United

25 States than any other [domestic violent extremist] movement"; and

26 WHEREAS, white supremacy is an ideology focused on maintaining White political and economic, as

27 well as demographic, dominance and is at odds with our commitment to inclusion and multiracial democracy in

28 the State of Montana; and

1           WHEREAS, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color in Montana experience ongoing harassment, tribal  
2 nations in Montana experience ongoing efforts to undermine treaty rights and tribal sovereignty, anti-Semitism  
3 is a driving force behind white nationalism, and anti-Semitic hate propaganda has been distributed in  
4 communities throughout Montana; and

5           WHEREAS, white nationalism has attempted to reinvent itself, yet its present-day rhetoric and terrorism  
6 conjure painful memories of our nation's past (and still-existing) racism; and

7           WHEREAS, free speech is a core principle of American democracy, but does not excuse the  
8 unconscionable agenda of hate groups that seek to destabilize American democracy, use fear as a control  
9 tactic, divide our community, and promote and ignite social animosities; and

10           WHEREAS, while free speech is a bedrock value for Americans, white nationalist and neo-Nazi groups  
11 promote agendas that are in irreconcilable conflict with our nation's foundational principles of liberty and justice  
12 for all; and

13           WHEREAS, white nationalism and neo-Nazism are continuing to grow as menaces to societal order  
14 that seek to reignite social animosities, reverse improvements in race relations, divide the nation, and foment  
15 hatred, classism, and ethnic eradication; and

16           WHEREAS, our history serves a critical role in our understanding of discrimination, and it is thereby  
17 incumbent on us to acknowledge our history so we do not repeat it; and

18           WHEREAS, our values are rooted in peace, respect, inclusivity, and equity, and we derive our strength  
19 from our diversity; and

20           WHEREAS, we commit to ensuring the inequities of the past are never a part of our future; and

21           WHEREAS, the State of Montana condemns xenophobia, racism, white supremacy, anti-Semitism,  
22 Islamophobia, homophobia, ableism, sexism, and all other forms of bigotry, and proudly stands for individual  
23 dignity and security and in unity against all those who would seek to propagate hate, fear, and intimidation and  
24 incite fear and violence targeting any human being; and

25           WHEREAS, the State of Montana celebrates and embraces the diversity of our community, which  
26 includes people of all races, national origins, immigration or refugee statuses, heritages, cultures, religions,  
27 sexes, gender identities, gender expressions, sexual orientations, abilities, ages, and economic statuses; and

28           WHEREAS, the white nationalist and neo-Nazi message of racial and social intolerance has led to

1 senseless acts of violence that continue to terrorize members of ethnic and religious minority communities.

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3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
4 THE STATE OF MONTANA:

5 That the State of Montana denounces bias or hate in any form and is committed to continue pursuing  
6 policies and directing resources of the state in the next year and beyond to ensure civil and human rights are  
7 afforded to all individuals.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as the Montana Legislature, we strongly denounce and oppose the  
9 totalitarian impulses, violent terrorism, xenophobic biases, and bigoted ideologies that are promoted by white  
10 nationalists and neo-Nazis.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge law enforcement to recognize these white nationalist and  
12 neo-Nazi groups as domestic terrorist organizations, and to pursue the criminal elements of these domestic  
13 terrorist organizations in the same manner and with the same fervor used to protect the United States from  
14 other manifestations of terrorism.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State of Montana is proud to stand as a shining example of  
16 states committed to inclusion, dignity, and justice. To that end, we deepen our resolve to recognize and  
17 confront systemic discrimination by reaffirming our steadfast commitment to peace, respect, inclusivity, and  
18 equity for all.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to the  
20 President of the United States, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate and the United  
21 States House of Representatives, each member of the Montana Congressional Delegation, the leaders of the  
22 Tribal Nations in Montana, each county commissioner in the State of Montana, and all city councilmembers in  
23 the State of Montana.

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- END -