I. Summary:

CS/SR 214/SR 222 rejects and condemns any philosophy that espouses the superiority of one group of people over another on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or religion as hateful, dangerous, and morally corrupt expressions of intolerance; and affirms that such philosophies are contradictory to the values that define the people of Florida and the United States.

Legislative resolutions have no force of law and are not subject to the approval or veto powers of the Governor.

II. Present Situation:

Targeted Mass Violence

Florida has been the site of several mass shootings that include Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, Jacksonville Landing, as well as a SunTrust Bank in Sebring.\(^1\) Many of these acts of targeted mass violence appear to have been motivated by violent extremism based on a variety of supremacy philosophies.

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White Nationalism

White nationalist groups espouse white supremacist or white separatist ideologies. The term “white supremacist extremism” (WSE) describes people or groups who commit criminal acts in the name of white supremacist ideology. At its core, white supremacist ideology purports that the white race ranks above all others. WSE draws on the constitutionally protected activities of a broad swath of racist hate-oriented groups active in the United States ranging from the Ku Klux Klan to racist skinheads. Some of these groups have elaborate organizational structures, dues-paying memberships, and media wings. Additionally, many individuals espouse extremist beliefs without having formal membership in any specific organization.

A large proportion of white supremacists dualistically divide the world between whites and all other peoples who are seen as enemies. Particular animus is directed toward Jews and African Americans.

Scholars indicate that white supremacists believe in racial separation and that society discriminates against them. To them, whites have lost “ground to other groups and ... extreme measures are required to reverse the trend.” All of this has been encapsulated in a slogan known as the “Fourteen Words”: “We must secure the existence of our race and a future for white children.” This was coined by David Lane, a member of a violent terrorist group active in the 1980s. The Fourteen Words have been described as “the most popular white supremacist slogan in the world.”

Incel

The term ‘incel’ was originally coined by an individual who started a website in the mid/late 1990s, entitled ‘Alana’s Involuntary Celibacy Project’ in order to discuss their sexual inactivity with others. The site was intended to foster an inclusive community to help people struggling to form relationships, but has since been co-opted by the current iteration of the incel movement.

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Although there is little in the way of authoritative published research in this area, the current incel movement appears to be a violent political ideology based upon misogyny, social marginalization, entitlement, male and white supremacy. Incel ideology is predicated on the notion that feminism has ruined society, therefore there is a need for a ‘gender revolt’ in order to reclaim a particular type of manhood. Incels believe their entitled access to women’s bodies is thwarted by women’s preference for more physically desirable men, and often frame this pattern of behavior as a form of theft. These individuals are frustrated at a world they see as denying them power and sexual control over women’s bodies. In their eyes, they are victims of oppressive feminism, an ideology which must be overthrown, even if by violence.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The PCS contains “Whereas” clauses stating that:

- Recent acts of domestic terror, including acts of mass violence, have shocked and saddened our nation;
- This murderous violence was perpetrated by individuals who embraced philosophies that espouse the superiority of one group of people over another on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or religion;
- These philosophies are embraced by groups which include white nationalists, white supremacists, “incels”, and others; and
- These philosophies are contradictory to the values, constitutional protections, and moral fiber of the United States of America and the State of Florida.

CS/SR 214 & SR 222 rejects and condemns any philosophy that espouses the superiority of one group of people over another on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or religion as hateful, dangerous, and morally corrupt expressions of intolerance; and affirms that such philosophies are contradictory to the values that define the people of Florida and the United States.

Legislative resolutions have no force of law and are not subject to the approval or veto powers of the Governor.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

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9 Id.
10 Debbie Ging, Alphas, betas, and incels: Theorizing the Masculinities of the Manosphere, in Men and Masculinities (Dublin City University, Glasnevin, 2017).
11 Supra, note 8.
C. Trust Funds Restrictions:
   None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:
   None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:
   None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:
   A. Tax/Fee Issues:
      None.
   B. Private Sector Impact:
      None.
   C. Government Sector Impact:
      None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:
    None.

VII. Related Issues:
     None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:
    This Senate resolution does not amend the Florida Statutes. If enacted, it will become an undesignated chapter law codified in the Laws of Florida.

IX. Additional Information:
   A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:
      (Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

      CS by Infrastructure and Security on January 13, 2020:
      • Combined SR 214 and SR 222, and expanded the resolution to reject and condemn any philosophy that espouses the superiority of one group of people over another on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or religion; and
- Revised the whereas clauses to state:
  o Recent acts of domestic terror, including acts of mass violence, have shocked and saddened our nation;
  o This murderous violence was perpetrated by individuals who embraced philosophies that espouse the superiority of one group of people over another on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or religion;
  o These philosophies are embraced by groups which include white nationalists, white supremacists, “incels”, and others; and
  o These philosophies are contradictory to the values, constitutional protections, and moral fiber of the United States of America and the State of Florida.

B. Amendments:

None.