

By Senator Jones

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Senate Resolution

A resolution rejecting and condemning white nationalism and white supremacy as hateful expressions of intolerance which contradict the values that define the people of Florida and the United States.

WHEREAS, recent acts of domestic terror, including acts of mass violence, have shocked and saddened our nation, and

WHEREAS, in a 2006 assessment, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) found that white supremacists believe that the white race is superior to all other races, that nonwhites are subhuman, and that the white race was created to rule over other races, and

WHEREAS, in that assessment the FBI stated, "To be a white nationalist is to be pro-white. The domestic white nationalist movement seeks to promote, honor, and defend 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. They 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," and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the FBI reported 7,314 hate crimes in the United States, an increase from 2018, including 111 hate crimes in Florida alone, and

WHEREAS, white supremacy and white nationalism are contrary to the ideals of the State of Florida as expressed in the State Constitution, which declares that "all natural persons, female and male alike, are equal before the law and have inalienable rights, among which are the right to enjoy and defend life and

35-00925-21

20211074__

30 liberty, to pursue happiness, to be rewarded for industry, and
31 to acquire, possess and protect property. No person shall be
32 deprived of any right because of race, religion, national
33 origin, or physical disability," and

34 WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln, in an 1858 speech, said of the
35 founders of our nation, "Wise statesmen as they were, they knew
36 the tendency of prosperity to breed tyrants, and so they
37 established these great self-evident truths, that when in the
38 distant future some man, some faction, some interest, should set
39 up the doctrine that none but rich men, or none but white men,
40 were entitled to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness, their
41 posterity might look up again to the Declaration of Independence
42 and take courage to renew the battle which their fathers began—
43 so that truth, and justice, and mercy, and all the humane and
44 Christian virtues might not be extinguished from the land; so
45 that no man would hereafter dare to limit and circumscribe the
46 great principles on which the temple of liberty was being
47 built," and

48 WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., while recognizing
49 that "no other nation can mean to us what our nation means,"
50 condemned "nationalism perverted into chauvinism and
51 isolationism" as "preached by ... the advocators of white
52 supremacy" and asked, "Will we continue to serve the false god
53 of racial prejudice or will we serve the God who made of one
54 blood all men to dwell upon the face of the earth?", and

55 WHEREAS, President Ronald Reagan observed in a 1988 speech,
56 "Anyone, from any corner of the Earth, can come to live in
57 America and become an American.... This, I believe, is one of
58 the most important sources of America's greatness. We lead the

35-00925-21

20211074__

59 world because, unique among nations, we draw our people—our
60 strength—from every country and every corner of the world. And
61 by doing so we continuously renew and enrich our nation. While
62 other countries cling to the stale past, here in America we
63 breathe life into dreams. We create the future, and the world
64 follows us into tomorrow. Thanks to each wave of new arrivals to
65 this land of opportunity, we're a nation forever young, forever
66 bursting with energy and new ideas, and always on the cutting
67 edge, always leading the world to the next frontier. This
68 quality is vital to our future as a nation. If we ever closed
69 the door to new Americans, our leadership in the world would
70 soon be lost," NOW, THEREFORE,

71

72 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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74 That white nationalism and white supremacy are rejected and
75 condemned as hateful expressions of intolerance which contradict
76 the values that define the people of Florida and the United
77 States.