

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 153**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 1, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator TROY SINGLETON

District 7 (Burlington)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Singer, Scutari, Gopal and Lagana

SYNOPSIS

Condemns all forms of anti-Semitism and rejects attempts to justify anti-Jewish hatred.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/16/2021)

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** condemning all forms of anti-
2 Semitism and rejecting attempts to justify anti-Jewish hatred.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, All Americans have a stake in fighting anti-Semitism, as all
5 Americans have a stake in fighting every form of bigotry and hatred
6 against people based on religion, race, or place of birth and origin;
7 and
8 **WHEREAS**, Anti-Semitism is the centuries-old bigotry and form of
9 racism faced by Jewish people simply because they are Jews; and
10 **WHEREAS**, Anti-Semitism includes blaming Jewish people when things
11 go wrong, calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of
12 Jewish people in the name of a radical ideology or extremist view of
13 religion, or making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or
14 stereotyped allegations about Jewish people; and
15 **WHEREAS**, Jewish people are subjected in the media and political
16 campaigns to dangerous anti-Semitic myths as well, including that
17 Jews control the United States government or seek global, political,
18 and financial domination; and
19 **WHEREAS**, Accusing Jews of being more loyal to Israel or to the Jewish
20 community than to the United States constitutes anti-Semitism
21 because it suggests that Jewish citizens cannot be patriotic
22 Americans and trusted neighbors, when Jews have loyally served our
23 nation every day since its founding, whether in public or community
24 life or military service; and
25 **WHEREAS**, Scapegoating and targeting of Jews in the United States has
26 persisted for many years, including by the Ku Klux Klan, the
27 America First Committee, and modern neo-Nazis; and
28 **WHEREAS**, There is clear evidence of increasing incidents and
29 expressions of anti-Semitism throughout the world; and
30 **WHEREAS**, A May 2014 survey by the Anti-Defamation League, “The
31 ADL Global 100: An Index of Anti-Semitism,” which surveyed
32 people in over 100 countries about their attitudes toward Jewish
33 people, found that a majority of people surveyed overall have either
34 not heard of the Holocaust or do not believe it happened as has been
35 documented by factual accounts and recorded by historians; and
36 **WHEREAS**, The January 2015 terrorist massacre of 12 people at the
37 offices of “Charlie Hebdo” magazine in Paris, the subsequent killing
38 of four French Jews at a kosher market just hours before the Jewish
39 Sabbath, the closing of Paris’ Grande Synagogue for the first time
40 since World War II, the closing of Jewish schools in Belgium and
41 other European nations, and the fears of ongoing anti-Semitism in
42 Europe’s largest Jewish communities demonstrated to Jews and all
43 people everywhere that Jewish life in France, Europe and throughout
44 the world is difficult and uncertain in the face of growing anti-
45 Semitic hatred and violence; and
46 **WHEREAS**, On August 11 and 12, 2017, self-identified neo-
47 Confederates, white nationalists, neo-Nazis, and Ku Klux Klansmen
48 held white supremacist events in Charlottesville, Virginia, where
49 they marched on a synagogue under the Nazi swastika, engaged in

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1 racist and anti-Semitic demonstrations, and committed brutal and
2 deadly violence against peaceful Americans; and
3 **WHEREAS**, In 2017, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported a 37
4 percent increase in hate crimes against Jews or Jewish institutions
5 and found that attacks against Jews or Jewish institutions made up
6 58.1 percent of all religious-based hate crimes; and
7 **WHEREAS**, A 2018 report from the Anti-Defamation League noted that
8 in 2018 there were 1,879 anti-Semitic incidents against Jews and
9 Jewish institutions; and
10 **WHEREAS**, On October 27, 2018, the perpetrator of the deadliest attack
11 on Jewish people in the history of the United States killed 11
12 worshippers at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh,
13 Pennsylvania and reportedly stated that he “wanted all Jews to die”;
14 and
15 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey ranked third in the nation in anti-Semitic
16 incidents in 2018, with 200 anti-Semitic incidents reported; and
17 **WHEREAS**, In New Jersey, Bergen, Middlesex, Ocean, and Union
18 counties had the largest number of reported anti-Semitic incidents in
19 2018 at 36, 23, 21, and 19, respectively; and
20 **WHEREAS**, In 2019, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported an
21 increase in hate crimes against Jews or Jewish institutions and found
22 that attacks against Jews or Jewish institutions made up 60.3 percent
23 of all religious-based hate crimes; and
24 **WHEREAS**, There is an urgent need to ensure the safety and security of
25 Jewish communities, and synagogues, schools, cemeteries, and other
26 institutions; and
27 **WHEREAS**, Anti-Semitism is a challenge to the basic principles of
28 tolerance, pluralism, and democracy and the shared values that bind
29 Americans together; and
30 **WHEREAS**, The First Amendment to the Constitution established the
31 United States as a country committed to the principles of tolerance
32 and religious freedom, and the Fourteenth Amendment established
33 equal protection of the laws as the heart of justice in the United
34 States; and
35 **WHEREAS**, Adherence to these principles is vital to the progress of the
36 American people and the diverse communities and religious groups
37 of the State of New Jersey; and
38 **WHEREAS**, Prejudice against Jewish people as a national, ethnic,
39 religious, or racial group has no place in New Jersey or in the United
40 States of America and violates the United States Constitution and the
41 laws of the United States; now, therefore,
42
43 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the
44 General Assembly concurring):
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46 1. The New Jersey Legislature unequivocally condemns all forms
47 of anti-Semitism and rejects attempts in this State, the United States,
48 and throughout the world to justify anti-Jewish hatred.

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1 2. The New Jersey Legislature applauds the leaders in the United
2 States and those foreign leaders who have condemned anti-Semitic
3 acts and calls on those who have yet to take firm action against anti-
4 Semitism in their countries to do so.

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6 3. The New Jersey Legislature supports expanded Holocaust
7 education programs that increase awareness, counter prejudice, and
8 enhance efforts to teach the universal lessons of the Holocaust,
9 genocide, intolerance, and discrimination.

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11 4. The New Jersey Legislature calls upon the citizens of New
12 Jersey and the State's government entities to continue to be vigilant
13 with efforts to prevent and report acts of anti-Semitism, hate crimes
14 and other violations of human rights and religious freedom.

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16 5. Copies of the resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
17 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the
18 Secretary of the Senate to the President of the United States, the
19 United States Secretary of State, the Governor, and to each member
20 of Congress elected from this State.

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STATEMENT

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25 This resolution condemns all forms of anti-Semitism and rejects
26 attempts to justify anti-Jewish hatred. Throughout the last decade,
27 there has been clear evidence of increasing incidents and expressions
28 of anti-Semitism throughout the world.

29 More recently, in a 2018 report, the Anti-Defamation League
30 noted that in 2018 there were 1,879 anti-Semitic incidents against
31 Jews and Jewish institutions, which included the deadliest attack on
32 Jewish persons in American history on October 27, 2018 at the Tree
33 of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where 11 worshippers
34 were killed. In 2018, a report showed New Jersey ranked third in the
35 nation in anti-Semitic incidents with 200 anti-Semitic incidents
36 reported. In 2019, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported an
37 increase in hate crimes against Jews or Jewish institutions and found
38 that attacks against Jews or Jewish institutions made up 60.3 percent
39 of all religious-based hate crimes.

40 There is an urgent need to ensure the safety and security of Jewish
41 communities, and synagogues, schools, cemeteries, and other
42 institutions. Anti-Semitism is the centuries-old bigotry and form of
43 racism faced by Jewish people simply because they are Jews. Anti-
44 Semitism is a challenge to the basic principles of tolerance,
45 pluralism, and democracy and the shared values that bind Americans
46 together. The First Amendment to the Constitution established the
47 United States as a country committed to the principles of tolerance
48 and religious freedom, and the Fourteenth Amendment established
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1 States. Adherence to these principles is vital to the progress of the
2 American people and the diverse communities and religious groups
3 of the State of New Jersey. The New Jersey Legislature
4 unequivocally condemns all forms of anti-Semitism and rejects
5 attempts in this State, the United States, and throughout the world to
6 justify anti-Jewish hatred.