

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 12

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator GERALD CARDINALE

District 39 (Bergen and Passaic)

Senator LORETTA WEINBERG

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Bateman, Holzapfel, Addiego, Oroho, Pennacchio and T.Kean

SYNOPSIS

Condemns strongly all hatred and bigotry directed toward religious organizations in New Jersey, Canada, and United States; condemns threats to Katz Jewish Community Center in Cherry Hill and Kaplen Jewish Community Center in Tenafly.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



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1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** condemning strongly all hatred and bigotry
2 directed toward religious organizations in New Jersey and the
3 United States.

4
5 **WHEREAS**, Hatred and bigotry directed by an individual or group
6 toward the religious beliefs of another individual or group is a
7 particularly heinous and reprehensible crime, perpetuated by
8 disturbed and ignorant individuals who lack tolerance and
9 compassion and belief in the dignity and equality of their fellow
10 human beings; and

11 **WHEREAS**, At its inception, this nation stood apart from other nations
12 because it made a central part of its founding document, the
13 Constitution of the United States, the idea that all persons are free
14 to practice the religion of their choosing and that no law shall
15 abridge that fundamental right; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Recently, in New Jersey, Canada, and the United States,
17 there has been a disturbing increase in violence and intimidation
18 directed toward individuals who are members of religious
19 communities and religious organizations; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Within the last few weeks, Jewish community centers in
21 New Jersey, including the Katz Jewish Community Center in
22 Cherry Hill, Camden County, and the Kaplen Jewish Community
23 Center on the Palisades in Tenaflly, Bergen County, and centers and
24 day schools in 29 other states and one Canadian province have been
25 targeted with bomb threats; and

26 **WHEREAS**, While no bombs have been found or individuals injured as
27 a result of these threats, their effect has been to scare and intimidate
28 the innocent people who use the centers to learn, recreate, and be
29 among other people who share the same faith; and

30 **WHEREAS**, This series of threats in New Jersey and elsewhere come at
31 a time of vandalism directed towards Jewish cemeteries near St.
32 Louis, Missouri, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in which
33 monuments have been defaced with racist slogans and headstones
34 have been toppled; and

35 **WHEREAS**, It is fitting and proper that this House condemn strongly
36 all hatred and bigotry directed toward religious organizations in
37 New Jersey, Canada, and the United States, and condemns the
38 threats to the Katz Jewish Community Center in Cherry Hill,
39 Camden County, and the Kaplen Jewish Community Center on
40 the Palisades in Tenaflly, Bergen County; now, therefore,

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42 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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44 1. This House condemns strongly all hatred and bigotry
45 directed toward religious organizations in New Jersey, Canada, and
46 the United States, and condemns threats to the Katz Jewish
47 Community Center in Cherry Hill, Camden County, and the Kaplen

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1 Jewish Community Center on the Palisades in Tenaflly, Bergen
2 County.

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4 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
5 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the Katz
6 Jewish Community Center in Cherry Hill, Camden County, and the
7 Kaplen Jewish Community Center on the Palisades in Tenaflly,
8 Bergen County.

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STATEMENT

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13 This Senate resolution condemns strongly all hatred and bigotry
14 directed toward religious organizations in New Jersey, Canada, and
15 the United States, and condemns the threat to the Katz Jewish
16 Community Center in Cherry Hill, Camden County, and the Kaplen
17 Jewish Community Center on the Palisades in Tenaflly, Bergen
18 County.