

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 161 Session of  
2017

---

INTRODUCED BY SOLOMON, FRANKEL, KAUFER, PHILLIPS-HILL, FREEMAN, SCHLOSSBERG, W. KELLER, DEAN, READSHAW, SAMUELSON, ENGLISH, CALTAGIRONE, HAHN, CORBIN, DERMODY, J. HARRIS, HILL-EVANS, PICKETT, RABB, DONATUCCI, SCHWEYER, LONGIETTI, BAKER, TOEPEL, BIZZARRO, GODSHALL, RYAN, DeLUCA, BARRAR, MURT, D. MILLER, D. COSTA, BULLOCK, KINSEY, DiGIROLAMO, MACKENZIE, SIMS, O'BRIEN, MILLARD, McNEILL, ROTHMAN, GROVE, CHARLTON, A. HARRIS, WATSON, NEILSON, KLUNK, SAYLOR, McCLINTON, V. BROWN, WARREN, MENTZER, REED, TURZAI, STAATS, DUSH, GOODMAN, DeLISSIO, BRIGGS, DRISCOLL, WARD, CEPHAS, FITZGERALD, HELM, CUTLER, TAYLOR, SACCONI, WHITE, MARKOSEK, KIM, MASSER, STURLA, BERNSTINE, ZIMMERMAN AND LAWRENCE, MARCH 20, 2017

---

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MARCH 20, 2017

---

A RESOLUTION

1 Condemning acts of hate and vandalism against the Jewish  
2 community.

3 WHEREAS, Individuals who show cultural insensitivity and an  
4 animus to a particular group of people are harming all  
5 Pennsylvanians; and

6 WHEREAS, Recently, there has been an alarming increase in the  
7 number of acts of hate directed toward members of the Jewish  
8 faith and this increase cannot be ignored; and

9 WHEREAS, Recent acts of hate number 154, including bomb  
10 threats and acts of vandalism against museums, houses of  
11 worship, advocacy groups and cemeteries; and

12 WHEREAS, This disturbing trend has occurred in this

1 Commonwealth and across the nation; and

2 WHEREAS, In late February of this year, vandals toppled more  
3 than 100 gravestones at Mount Carmel Cemetery in Philadelphia, a  
4 historic cemetery that dates back to the mid-1800s; and

5 WHEREAS, Families and loved ones have had to endure the  
6 emotional trauma of seeing the desecrated headstones and come to  
7 terms with the challenges brought about by the vandalism; and

8 WHEREAS, The perpetrators of the vandalism have not been  
9 apprehended, and the families affected continue to suffer from  
10 these acts of cowardice and hate; and

11 WHEREAS, In early March 2017, multiple Jewish community  
12 centers across the country, including one in York and one in  
13 Harrisburg, were evacuated after receiving threats; and

14 WHEREAS, Staff at the York Jewish Community Center (JCC)  
15 received a call from a man who claimed there was a bomb in the  
16 building; and

17 WHEREAS, The JCC staff evacuated the building and allowed the  
18 authorities to sweep the building with bomb-sniffing dogs; and

19 WHEREAS, As children in the JCC's day care were being  
20 evacuated their parents were contacted and reacted with panic;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, The families who endured threats continue to remain  
23 on guard, fearful about whether a similar act will follow; and

24 WHEREAS, The community in York, the York authorities, the  
25 Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation  
26 continue to investigate these acts and remain determined to  
27 bring those responsible to justice; and

28 WHEREAS, Throughout the country, police have reported threats  
29 to Jewish institutions; and

30 WHEREAS, Over the recent Purim holiday, the Louis S. Wolk

1 Jewish Community Center in Rochester, New York, was evacuated  
2 Sunday morning for the second time in less than a week during  
3 its hosting of a "warming center" for people whose homes had  
4 lost power; and

5 WHEREAS, These acts represent a continuing and disturbing  
6 pattern of intimidation and hate; and

7 WHEREAS, We all stand united against such cowardly acts; and

8 WHEREAS, Our Commonwealth cannot be defined by these acts,  
9 but rather should be defined by our residents' response to these  
10 acts; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives condemn acts of  
12 hate and vandalism that have been committed against the Jewish  
13 community; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all  
15 Pennsylvanians to remain steadfast in rejecting cultural  
16 insensitivity and use this as a moment when we can come together  
17 to educate young people and adults on understanding and  
18 appreciating all members of our community and residents of this  
19 Commonwealth.