

A RESOLUTION

Censuring Representative Russ Diamond

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 global pandemic, Representative Russ Diamond has made repeated, public and transphobic attacks on Pennsylvania Secretary of Health, Dr. Rachel Levine, a transgender woman; and

WHEREAS, on July 30th, following an extensive plea by the Secretary of Health to stop the continued transphobic and homophobic attacks against her, Representative Diamond publicly mocked and mimicked the Health Secretary's plea in a statement released to the press and to the public via social media; and

WHEREAS, Representative Diamond parroted and ridiculed the Secretary of Health's calls for tolerance and acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community, which still has no statewide protections from discrimination and faces unprecedented discrimination and violence across the Commonwealth, by substituting the "unmasked community" for the "LGBTQ+ communities"; and

WHEREAS, Representative Diamond has made his objection to the science, medicine, and public health expertise that supports Governor Wolf and Secretary Levine's statewide mask order; and

WHEREAS, Representative Diamond's general disdain for the Secretary of Health has been well documented in his written comments and legislative measures to impede her authority in the commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, That disdain has grown beyond any and all professional disagreement or objection and is now manifest in the type of discrimination and bigotry that the Pennsylvania General Assembly, and the population of Pennsylvania as a whole, must condemn in the strongest terms; and

WHEREAS, Representative Diamond's attacks on Secretary Levine and the larger LGBTQ+ communities across Pennsylvania have placed both her, and these citizens, in reasonable fear for their own safety merely because they were exercising their constitutional right to live authentic lives; and

WHEREAS, Representative Diamond also used his elected position to intimidate, mock & ridicule the Secretary of Health and others who identify as LGBTQ+ in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Under section 11 of Article II of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, the House of Representatives has the exclusive power to determine its rules, protect its members against violence and expel a member; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That, pursuant to section 11 of Article II of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, the House of Representatives censure Representative Russ Diamond for

his actions which tend to bring the House of Representatives into dishonor and disrepute; and be it further

RESOLVED, That, pursuant to section 11 of Article II of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, the House of Representatives remove Representative Russ Diamond from his position as a member of the Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee, Finance Committee, the Gaming Oversight Committee and the State Government Committee; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct that for the remainder of the 2019-2020 Legislative Session, the House not appoint Representative Russ Diamond to any standing, select or special committee of the House, the General Assembly or any agency, authority, board, or commission.