
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 672 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY J. HARRIS, RABB, THOMAS, MURT, KINSEY, SOLOMON,
DONATUCCI, DAVIS, PASHINSKI, McCLINTON, YOUNGBLOOD, KIRKLAND,
V. BROWN, SCHLOSSBERG, FRANKEL AND SCHWEYER, FEBRUARY 2, 2018

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, FEBRUARY 2, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Condemning the President of the United States for his recent
2 unbecoming and disparaging remarks about the country of Haiti
3 and the countries encompassing the continent of Africa.

4 WHEREAS, During a meeting convened on January 11, 2018, in
5 the Oval Office of the White House to discuss policy matters
6 regarding immigration reform, President Donald J. Trump posed
7 the question of why the United States should accept immigrants
8 from "shithole" countries, which included Haiti and African
9 countries; and

10 WHEREAS, The United States currently serves as home to more
11 than 2.1 million African immigrants and 676,000 Haitian
12 immigrants; and

13 WHEREAS, President Trump's incendiary comments were not only
14 grossly offensive to the Haitian and African immigrants and the
15 heritage of their homelands, but they also serve as the
16 antithesis to the very ethos that our nation was built upon and
17 is inscribed on our very own Statue of Liberty: "Give me your
18 tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free";

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Sadly, President Trump's recent remarks represent a
3 consistent pattern of racially charged and derogatory comments
4 that he has made about nonwhite immigrants, which include, but
5 are not limited to: Mexicans "bringing drugs. They're bringing
6 crime. They're rapists" and the Diversity Visa Program gives "us
7 their worst" and Haitian immigrants "all have AIDS" and
8 Nigerians will never "go back to their huts"; and

9 WHEREAS, Not only has President Trump's latest iteration of
10 repugnant comments offended the personal sensibilities of both
11 Haitian and African immigrants residing in the United States and
12 their international diaspora, they also threaten to set back
13 American interests within the world's fastest growing continent;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, President Trump's remarks have also incurred the ire
16 and condemnation of the African Union, which is comprised of an
17 assemblage of 55 member states on the continent, as well as the
18 South African government, which has indicated that it intends to
19 lodge a formal complaint with the American Embassy; and

20 WHEREAS, Further compounding this controversy was President
21 Trump's insistence that the United States should have more
22 people emigrating from Norway as opposed to Haiti and African
23 countries; and

24 WHEREAS, Not only were President Trump's remarks deeply
25 steeped in racial overtones, they also underscore his fundamental
26 ignorance about foreign affairs as there currently are more
27 Americans who are immigrating to Norway than there are
28 Norwegians immigrating to the United States; and

29 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus, an
30 organization whose mission is to promote and protect the

1 interests of this Commonwealth's communities of color,
2 encourages lawmakers to utilize their positions and voices to
3 root out the prevalence of bigotry and racism, even if it
4 manifests itself in the upper echelons of government and within
5 the highest office of the land; and

6 WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians must exhibit the courage and
7 leadership necessary to protect and promote the interests of
8 more than 800,000 immigrants that presently reside in this
9 Commonwealth, which includes a large number of African
10 immigrants and approximately 13,000 Haitian immigrants; and

11 WHEREAS, In stark contrast to President Trump's comments,
12 Pennsylvania's immigrant population does not serve as a drain on
13 this Commonwealth's economy, but instead has served as an
14 economic boon by contributing more than \$2.1 billion in State
15 and local taxes and adding more than \$18.6 billion in spending
16 power to this Commonwealth; and

17 WHEREAS, Americans must never lose sight of the fact that it
18 is our collective diversity and inclusivity that has directly
19 contributed to making our nation both powerful and prosperous;
20 therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives condemn the
22 President of the United States for his recent unbecoming and
23 disparaging remarks about the country of Haiti and the countries
24 encompassing the continent of Africa; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives undertake efforts
26 to ensure that Pennsylvania's Haitian and African immigrant
27 populations understand that their presence is welcome in our
28 country and that invaluable contributions that they have made to
29 this Commonwealth are greatly appreciated.