

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 89

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman **CRAIG J. COUGHLIN**

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman **ELLEN J. PARK**

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman **YVONNE LOPEZ**

District 19 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Stanley, Assemblywoman Lampitt, Assemblymen Wimberly and Rodriguez

SYNOPSIS

Condemns hate in all forms and especially all hate and bias crimes.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/16/2024)

AJR89 COUGHLIN, PARK

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1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** condemning hate in all forms and especially
2 all hate and bias crimes.
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4 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey has long recognized that its
5 diverse population is one of its greatest sources of strength and
6 pride; and
7 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey benefits in innumerable ways
8 from its diverse population comprised of individuals from every
9 corner of the world and from all walks of life creating a cultural
10 tapestry that enriches every aspect of life; and
11 **WHEREAS**, In the past several years, there has been an alarming
12 increase in the rate of hate and bias crimes, which include violent
13 crimes, threats of violence, and other incidents motivated by hatred,
14 in New Jersey and across the United States; and
15 **WHEREAS**, Acts of hatred and bias reflect a profound lack of tolerance
16 and empathy and attempt to deny basic equality and human dignity,
17 inflame tensions, promote social hostility, fear, division and
18 discord, and are nothing less than a direct attack on the very fabric
19 of New Jersey's civil society; and
20 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey has a proud history of fighting
21 hate and bias crimes and has continued to make substantial efforts
22 to combat acts of hatred and bias wherever possible; and
23 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey has invested significant resources
24 towards encouraging its citizens to report bias incidents to law
25 enforcement, making it easier to file a report for hate crimes and
26 bias incidents, and ensuring that law enforcement agencies respond
27 appropriately to all reports of hate and bias crimes; and
28 **WHEREAS**, The New Jersey Office of the Attorney General held a
29 Summit on Combatting Bias, Hate, and Violence in June of 2022 to
30 address how the State can combat the alarming rise in hate and bias
31 in its communities; and
32 **WHEREAS**, The New Jersey Attorney General's Youth Bias Task
33 Force issued a report in 2020 highlighting several recommendations
34 to help address the deeply rooted sources of discrimination and
35 hatred; and
36 **WHEREAS**, The Bias Crime Unit, in the New Jersey Division of
37 Criminal Justice in the Department of Law and Public Safety, is the
38 Statewide coordinator of efforts to eliminate crimes motivated by
39 prejudice against others based on race, color, religion, sexual
40 orientation, gender, disability, or ethnicity and investigates
41 complaints; and
42 **WHEREAS**, The Department of Law and Public Safety and the
43 Division of Civil Rights continues to promote justice and equality
44 throughout the State and the creation of a new Incident Response
45 Team within the Division on Civil Rights can respond in the
46 community following a major civil rights incident; and

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1 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey's County Prosecutors have instituted Bias
2 Crime Units to specifically address hate-based crimes and have held
3 anti-bias events across the State; and

4 **WHEREAS**, More remains to be done to combat the ongoing problem
5 of hatred and bias-motivated crime in the State of New Jersey; and

6 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey is firmly committed to never
7 allowing hatred and bigotry to go unchecked and unchallenged, and
8 to protecting its citizens from the damage that hatred can cause; and

9 **WHEREAS**, It is the ongoing mission of the State of New Jersey to
10 promote a vibrant, livable, and inclusive community which
11 celebrates the diversity of its citizenry, to support all of its
12 community members, to prevent the spread of misinformation, and
13 to unequivocally reject hatred and bias in all forms; and

14 **WHEREAS**, It is in the public interest of the citizens of the State of
15 New Jersey to condemn, in the strongest possible terms, any and all
16 forms of hatred, violence, incitement to violence, and criminality
17 against any individual motivated by race, religion, ethnicity,
18 physical or mental disability, age, marriage, familial status, gender,
19 or sexual orientation; now, therefore,

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21 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
22 *State of New Jersey:*

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24 1. The State of New Jersey unequivocally rejects and
25 condemns all forms of hatred, hate-based violence, incitements to
26 violence, and any form of bias, discrimination, or animus targeting
27 persons by race, religion, ethnicity, physical or mental disability,
28 age, marriage, familial status, gender, or sexual orientation.

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30 2. The Governor and the Attorney General should continue to
31 provide State assistance to victims of hate and bias crimes, improve
32 and enhance citizens' ability to report hate and bias crimes, pursue
33 prosecutions of such crimes, enhance security measures, improve
34 preparedness at religious institutions or places of worship, and
35 improve preparedness by groups that have been targeted because of
36 race, religion, ethnicity, physical or mental disability, age,
37 marriage, familial status, gender, or sexual orientation.

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39 3. The Governor and the Attorney General should continue to
40 research and develop new ways to understand and combat hatred
41 and bias crimes and develop additional methods to address this
42 ongoing issue.

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44 4. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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This resolution unequivocally rejects and condemns all forms of hatred, hate-based violence, incitements to violence, and any form of racism, religious or ethnic bias, discrimination, or animus targeting persons by race, religion, ethnicity, physical or mental disability, age, marriage, familial status, gender, or sexual orientation.

The resolution recognizes that the Governor and the Attorney General should continue to provide assistance to victims of hate crimes, enhance security measures, improve preparedness, and develop new ways to understand and combat hatred and bias crimes.

The State of New Jersey is firmly committed to never allowing hatred and bigotry to go unchecked and unchallenged and to protecting its citizens from the harm that hatred can cause. It is the mission of the State of New Jersey to promote a vibrant, livable, and inclusive community which celebrates the diversity of its citizenry, support all of its community members, prevent the spread of misinformation, and reject hatred and bias in all forms.

It is in the public interest of the citizens of the State of New Jersey to condemn, in the strongest possible terms, any and all forms of hatred, violence, incitement to violence, and criminality against any individual motivated by race, religion, ethnicity, physical or mental disability, age, marriage, familial status, gender, or sexual orientation.