

21103509D

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 618

Offered January 22, 2021

*Denouncing racism and racist ideologies in Virginia.*

Patrons—Levine, Ayala, Cole, J.G., Hope, Hurst, Kory, Rasoul and Simonds

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the rights to nondiscrimination and equal protection under the law are fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution of Virginia and the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the diversity of the Commonwealth is beneficial to all within, making communities stronger and more resilient; and

WHEREAS, racism and racist ideologies persist and continue to pervade institutions throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, structural racism is mirrored in socioeconomic inequality and poverty, social ills that reinforce and interact with each other; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth must take concrete, proactive steps to address and end structural racism, discrimination, and the under-representation of racial and ethnic minority groups; and

WHEREAS, the fight against racism and discrimination is a shared responsibility; and

WHEREAS, every Virginian has the ability and obligation to set a positive example by promoting inclusiveness, celebrating diversity, and rejecting hate and bias in all forms to protect the inherent dignity of all persons; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby denounce systemic and structural racism in all its forms, including white supremacy and the use of symbols and slogans of racist ideologies that aim to intimidate any person; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the General Assembly hereby strongly condemn all forms of racism, hate, bigotry, and discrimination, including physical or verbal attacks that target people on the basis of racial or ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the General Assembly hereby affirm its proactive commitment to combat hate, racism, and injustice and to cultivate an inclusive, safe, and just society in the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

HJ618