

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.191

Rep. Hoskins offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to denounce the espousal of racist, xenophobic,
2 and white supremacist language by members of this chamber.

3 Whereas, The Michigan House of Representatives is known as
4 "the people's house." It is the legislative chamber that is closest
5 to the people of this state, and the members elected to and serving
6 therein are the voice of those people; and

7 Whereas, The state of Michigan is a beautifully diverse state.
8 Michigan and its people are so vibrant because of, not in spite of,
9 the different identities, backgrounds, and cultures of the people
10 who call our state home; and

11 Whereas, The promotion and espousal of racist, xenophobic, and
12 white supremacist language, regardless of the source or form, is a
13 vile stain on our society. Such language and images often draw on

1 stereotypes and conspiracy theories that do not reflect the reality
2 of the world or its people. Such discourse has been used to incite
3 and justify deadly violence against individuals and communities of
4 color; and

5 Whereas, We rightly hold elected officials to a higher
6 standard in matters of discourse. The language of leadership
7 carries a greater weight with the general public than that coming
8 from peers. When a person in a position of authority spreads words
9 and images designed to foment hate and division, it sends a signal
10 that those words and images are acceptable for use in the
11 marketplace of ideas; now, therefore, be it

12 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we denounce the
13 espousal of racist, xenophobic, and white supremacist language,
14 theories, and images, as they do not belong in societal discourse
15 and serve only to stoke fear, hatred, and division, ideas
16 antithetical to the functioning of "the people's house"; and be it
17 further

18 Resolved, That such language, theories, and images being
19 posted, reposted, or otherwise shared by members of the Michigan
20 House of Representatives represents a failure of decorum and a
21 dereliction of each member's duty both as the voice of a diverse
22 group of people and as a keeper of the public trust; and be it
23 further

24 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
25 every member of the Michigan House of Representatives.