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State of Misconsin 2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-5720/1 RAC:emw

2017 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 31

March 22, 2018 - Introduced by Representatives Hintz, Hesselbein, Spreitzer, Doyle, Brostoff, Riemer, Subeck, Hebl, Kessler, Ohnstad, Billings, Kolste, Sargent, Fields, Anderson, Bowen, Crowley, Neubauer, Stuck, Vruwink, Young, Zepnick, Sinicki, Zamarripa, Genrich, C. Taylor, Considine, Wachs, Meyers, Goyke, Milroy, Shankland, Barca, Pope and Berceau. Referred to Committee on Rules.

Relating to: condemning the increase in incidents of anti-Semitism and other forms of bias, prejudice, and discrimination.

Whereas, there has been a rash of bomb threats and cemetery desecrations targeting Jewish community centers, Jewish day schools, and Jewish institutions across the nation and an increase in discriminatory rhetoric and actions, including verbal and violent anti-Semitic assaults, in recent years nationwide targeting Jewish community members and specifically Jewish university students; and

Whereas, since 2016, in Wisconsin, there has been a 30 percent increase in anti-Semitic incidents and a 150 percent increase in incidents categorized as harassment, threats, or assaults against individuals perceived to be of Jewish ancestry; and

Whereas, since 2016, across the United States, there has been a 60 percent increase in anti-Semitic incidents, which was the largest increase on record since the Anti-Defamation League began tracking the incidents in the 1970s, and, in 2017, 1,986 anti-Semitic incidents were reported across the United States; and

Whereas, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, ProPublica, Southern Poverty Law Center, Anti-Defamation League, and other reputable groups have identified evidence of hundreds of incidents of anti-Semitic harassment and intimidation in the last few months throughout the country targeting individuals perceived to be of Jewish ancestry; and

Whereas, these anti-Semitic acts appear to have come from white nationalist and racist groups, as well as from groups across the political spectrum, and often include anti-Jewish bigotry, including anti-Semitic discrimination rooted in efforts to delegitimize Jewish self-determination; and

Whereas, these incidents occur in the context of a steep rise in anti-Semitism globally and the rise of xenophobic and discriminatory acts targeting people of diverse backgrounds, including Muslims, Arabs, Sikhs, Latinos, women, immigrants of all backgrounds, and LGBT people, in our nation; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, That in light of the volume and frequency of acts of intolerance and xenophobia and the evolving nature of anti-Semitism, the members of the Wisconsin State Assembly hereby reaffirm our commitment to an open and inclusive state that actively opposes all of these forms of prejudice, bias, or discrimination against people based on religion, ethnicity, race, sex, national origin, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and disability; and, be it further

Resolved, That the members of the Wisconsin State Assembly will work to uphold principles of equality, pluralism, and inclusivity and will stand in solidarity with Jewish and other communities whenever they are targeted or marginalized.