

SENATE RESOLUTION NO.122

Senators Theis, Santana, Alexander, Geiss, MacGregor, McCann and Wojno offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to condemn and denounce the violent activities of
2 extremist organizations and to memorialize the Congress of the
3 United States to redouble its efforts to combat the spread of all
4 forms of domestic terrorism.

5 Whereas, Freedom of Speech and Freedom of the Press are
6 hallmarks of our First Amendment rights and founding principles of
7 this great nation. Article I, Section 5 of the *Constitution of the*
8 *State of Michigan of 1963* reaffirms, "Every person may freely
9 speak, write, express and publish his views on all subjects, being
10 responsible for the abuse of such right; and no law shall be
11 enacted to restrain or abridge the liberty of speech or of the
12 press."; and

1 Whereas, It is a fundamental responsibility of government to
2 protect citizens thereby creating an environment that allows and
3 encourages peaceful speech and peaceful protest; and

4 Whereas, Extremist organizations, including Antifa, White
5 supremacist groups such as Boogaloo, and others, represent
6 opposition to the democratic ideals of peaceful assembly and free
7 speech for all. These organizations, because they believe that free
8 speech is equivalent to violence, have used threats of violence and
9 online harassment in the pursuit of suppressing opposing political
10 ideologies; and

11 Whereas, Federal statute defines the term "domestic terrorism"
12 to mean activities that involve "acts dangerous to human life that
13 are a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any
14 State and those acts appear to be intended to intimidate or coerce
15 a civilian population, to influence the policy of a government by
16 intimidation or coercion, or to affect the conduct of government...";
17 and

18 Whereas, Extremist organizations, including Antifa and White
19 supremacist groups such as Boogaloo, and others, have traded civil
20 protest for violence on multiple occasions, endangering public
21 welfare and wreaking havoc on cities across America to advance
22 their political ideologies. These organizations have participated
23 in attacks on civilians, members of the press, law enforcement, and
24 our men and women in uniform. Their violence detracts from peaceful
25 gatherings, endangering individuals using civil protest as a means
26 of expression; and

27 Whereas, Their use of violence as a means of furthering their
28 political agenda has been denounced by various leaders and groups
29 across the political spectrum; and

1 Whereas, There is no place for violence in the discourse
2 between people in a civil society. The use of violence by extremist
3 organizations represents a significant threat to public safety as
4 well as the First Amendment rights of all people; now, therefore,
5 be it

6 Resolved by the Senate, That we unequivocally condemn and
7 denounce the violent actions of extremist organizations as
8 unacceptable; and be it further

9 Resolved, That we memorialize the Congress of the United
10 States to redouble its efforts, using all available and appropriate
11 tools, to combat the spread of all forms of domestic terrorism; and
12 be it further

13 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
14 President of the United States, the Director of the Federal Bureau
15 of Investigation, the President of the United States Senate, the
16 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the chair
17 and ranking member of the United States House Committee on the
18 Judiciary, and the members of the Michigan congressional
19 delegation.