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For Immediate Release

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Representative Kane and Legislative Colleagues Formally Condemn Neo-Nazi and White Supremacist Groups

Joins the Baker Administration in pledging to promote equality, justice and tolerance

(BOSTON) – State Representative Hannah Kane, (R-Shrewsbury), joined her colleagues in the Massachusetts Legislature to support a resolution that unequivocally denounces white nationalism and neo-Nazism, and condemns the hatred, bigotry and violence these groups consistently espouse. The resolution will be transmitted to the Mayor of Charlottesville, Governor of Virginia and President of the United States.

In highlighting Massachusetts' historic role in promoting civil rights and justice, the resolution emphasized that the values of these groups stand in irreconcilable conflict with the founding principles of both the Commonwealth and the nation.

"With profound sadness I co-sponsored the Charlottesville, Virginia Resolution offered by Governor Baker, Lieutenant Governor Polito, Speaker DeLeo, Senate President Rosenberg, and my Legislative colleagues" stated Representative Kane. "I join my colleagues in denouncing and condemning white nationalists, neo-Nazi and other racist and hate-based organizations, which stand in stark contrast to the values of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as well as the United States. Massachusetts remains committed to advancing the civil rights of all individuals, and protecting our founding principles of liberty and justice for all. I am humbled and honored to represent the good people of the Eleventh Worcester District, and will continue to work on their behalf towards ensuring a more unified and tolerant Commonwealth."

Following the signing of the resolution, legislators joined Governor Baker and Lt. Governor Polito in a moment of silence for the Charlottesville victims. The legislation, which was filed in the wake of the Charlottesville tragedy, states that "intolerance has led to senseless acts of violence that continue to terrorize members of ethnic and religious communities." It urges law enforcement agencies and elected officials to condemn white nationalist and neo-Nazi ideology, vigorously pursue justice in response to hate-fueled violence and work to ensure the protection of marginalized and targeted communities.

The complete text of the Resolution, entitled, "Addressing neo-Nazi and White Nationalist Hate Organizations" reads as follows:

WHEREAS, white nationalist organizations in our country have consistently promoted values that are overtly racist, anti-Semitic, and anti-immigrant, and these poisonous ideologies continue to promote hatred, bigotry, and violence specifically against individuals solely on the basis of their race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, and immigration status; and

WHEREAS, today, white nationalism and neo-Nazism remain very real threats to the values for which the Commonwealth stands, and their reinvention as the “Alt-Right,” should not mitigate their hateful ideologies; and

WHEREAS, while free speech is a bedrock value for the citizens in our Commonwealth and Country, white nationalist and neo-Nazi groups promote a message that is the antithesis of Massachusetts’ dedication to civil rights for all, and is in irreconcilable conflict with our foundational principles of liberty and justice for all; and

WHEREAS, white nationalism and neo-Nazism are continuing to grow as menaces to societal order as they seek to reignite social animosities, reverse improvements in race relations, divide the nation, and foment hatred, classism, and ethnic eradication; and

WHEREAS, the white nationalist and neo-Nazi message of racial and social intolerance has led to senseless acts of violence that continue to terrorize members of ethnic and religious communities; Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we strongly denounce and oppose the totalitarian impulses, violence, xenophobic biases, and bigoted ideologies that are promoted by white nationalists and neo-Nazis; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we urge law enforcement agencies and elected officials at every level of government to condemn white nationalist and neo-Nazi ideology, to vigorously pursue justice in response to hate-fueled violence and work to ensure the protection of the marginalized and targeted communities.

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of Charlottesville, Governor of Virginia and President of the United States.

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