



The New Hampshire
House Of Representatives
Sherman A. Packard, Speaker of the House

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JOINT STATEMENT
House Leadership Denounces Hate Speech

Concord, NH: NH House Speaker Sherman Packard (R-Londonderry) and Democratic Leader Matt Wilhelm (D-Manchester) released a joint statement denouncing recent hate speech targeting House Members:

Speaker Packard's statement:

"Hate speech has no place in our society – ever. It is detrimental to meaningful dialogue and the political process in our state and has negative impacts on future generations.

Recently, several of our colleagues have found themselves to be the target of hate speech, both online and in email communications.

I want to make it clear – House Leadership stands united against any form of hate speech that promotes violence, racism, bigotry, and anti-Semitism. New Hampshire has a proud tradition of standing together and standing up for what is right."

Democratic Leader Wilhelm's statement:

"New Hampshire is not innocent of racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, hate speech, and acts of violence against our marginalized communities. This month, the city of Portsmouth experienced targeted hate-fueled vandalism against LGBTQ+ and BIPOC businesses and a Jewish synagogue.

Additionally, for several months now and as recently as last week, legislators in the New Hampshire House have received online threats from groups identifying as 'white nationalists,' who state their intent to 'keep New Hampshire white.'

We know that words have meaning – racism and hate manifesting in words and minds online breeds material acts of discrimination, intimidation, and hatred in our state. I want to make it abundantly clear that people of color, LGBTQ+ people and Jewish people are an essential part of New Hampshire, and we must make sure our state is safe and welcoming for all its residents.

It is our collective duty to call out this disturbing behavior when it happens, and we urge Granite Staters to do the same whenever they see it in their own virtual and physical neighborhoods.”

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