

The New Hampshire

House Of Representatives

Sherman A. Packard, Speaker of the House

For Immediate Release March 31, 2023

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Good afternoon House Members,

Over the last few months, House Members on both sides of the aisle have been targeted by emails from an avowed white nationalist containing hate-filled rhetoric that is not reflective of the House of Representatives, its Members, or by any reasonable person.

As I have stated on many occasions, and I will reiterate - I do not condone violence against others. I do not condone hate speech or any type of speech that belittles or marginalizes any particular group because of their beliefs, their race, or their personal life choices. We live in a country that was built upon the idea that anybody has the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We still believe in that, and we still believe that every human being is equal. This individual's hate-filled crusade is not representative of any one political party, and it will not be tolerated.

To be abundantly clear, the individual behind the hate speech and his distorted belief system are dangerous, and he does not speak for me or for the citizens of this great state. Regardless of our political beliefs here in New Hampshire, our number one collective goal as a state, is to ensure the safety and well-being of each other. As neighbors, friends, family, co-workers, and as a community - we believe in treating all in a dignified and respectful way. If our history says anything about our very nature, it is that we are resilient, we are strong and we remain united against any common enemy that threatens the very essence of our society.

I encourage everyone to join me and speak out against all forms of hate speech that promote racism, homophobia, antisemitism, and transphobia. I have remained consistent in my messaging that hate has no place here. In my position as Speaker of the New Hampshire House, I will continue to advocate for respect, dignity, and above all – kindness. We all believe in a better future for New Hampshire, and to get there, we must join together to fight for it and preserve it.

Respectfully,

Sherman A. Packard Speaker of the House