

RELEASE: REPUBLICANS ONCE AGAIN REFUSE TO DENOUNCE ANTI-SEMITIC AND RACIST ACTIONS BY LEGISLATORS

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New Hampshire House of Representatives Concord, New Hampshire House Democratic Office

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CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – Today, House Democrats made a motion to suspend House Rules to allow for the late filing of a bill expanding and clarifying the Legislative Ethics Committee statutes around hate speech, bullying, and other forms of harassment.

House Democratic Leader, Rep. Renny Cushing (D-Hampton) released the following statement:

“Just as we do not tolerate hate speech, bullying, and harassment in elementary school, it must not be tolerated by public officials in the legislature. Unfortunately, the recent Anti-Semitic social media posting by a House Republican is not the first time that inappropriate, racist, and discriminatory behavior has entered the New Hampshire House and likely will not be the last. As representatives of diverse communities across the state, it is our duty to hold our colleagues accountable on behalf of our constituencies. This bill would have ensured that hate speech would be subject to the same formal complaint process as other ethics violations for legislators. It is disturbing that House Republicans do not consider protecting the humanity of all people as the simple baseline for professional conduct.”

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On Background: This late filing request was initially made during the House Rules committee meeting on December 15th, but Republicans failed to support it. This request was made in response to the news that newly elected Representative Dawn Johnson (R-Laconia) had shared a post from a neo-Nazi website on Facebook.

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