



*Co-Chairs*  
Senator Terry Gerratana  
Connecticut

Representative Kevin Ryan  
Deputy Speaker  
Connecticut

*Director*  
Wendell M. Hannaford

RESOLUTION # EC2017-02

RESOLUTION DENOUNCING HATE GROUPS, THEIR MESSAGE AND  
THE VIOLENCE IN VIRGINIA

**Whereas**, people gathered in Charlottesville, Virginia to protest the removal of a Robert E. Lee statue; and

**Whereas**, the protesters chanted messages of hate and bigotry; and

**Whereas**, they were supported by hate groups such as, Neo-Nazi's, The KKK, and white supremacists, with histories of violence; and

**Whereas**, counter protesters gathered peacefully to express their support for removing the statue and against bigotry; and

**Whereas**, because of growing tensions among the protesters, a state of emergency was declared; and

**Whereas**, counter protester, Heather Heyer, died violently while demonstrating against hate and in support of tolerance; and

**Whereas**, bigotry threatens the rights and privileges enjoyed by the inhabitants of our great nations; and

**Whereas**, the inhabitants of both the United States and Canada respect the ideals of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;" and

**Whereas**, it is the responsibility of state and provincial governments to enact laws that protect the rights of peaceful assembly, freedom of speech and freedom of religion; and

**Whereas**, the Council of State Governments' Eastern Regional Conference (CSG/ERC) is comprised of the 11 ERC member states from Maine to Maryland, the Territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and five eastern Canadian Provinces; and

**Whereas**, it is fitting and proper for The Council of State Governments Eastern Regional Conference to condemn all such hateful behavior;

**Therefore Be It Resolved**, that as state and provincial elected officials we have the responsibility to speak out against hate and bigotry wherever and whenever it occurs, and

**Be It Further Resolved**, The Council of State Governments condemns bigotry and hatred and steadfastly confirms its dedication to the rights and dignity of people of all faiths, beliefs, and cultures; and

**Be It Further Resolved**, that The Council of State Governments Eastern Regional Conference denounces in the strongest possible terms hate speech, intimidation, violence, vandalism, arson, murder, and all hate crimes; and calls upon all people of good will to pledge to be civil and respectful in all public forums and dialogue; and

**Be It Further Resolved**, that CSG/ERC declares that the civil rights and civil liberties of all citizens should be protected and preserved, and we reaffirm the right of every citizen to live without fear and intimidation, and to practice their faith freely; and

**Be It Further Resolved**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the governors, legislative leaders and minority leaders of the ERC member jurisdictions and the premiers and speakers of the legislative assemblies of the Eastern Canadian provinces.

**Adopted August 16, 2017 CSG/ERC Annual Meeting and Policy Forum,  
Uncasville, Connecticut**