

2022 -- H 7025

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONDEMNING THE ACTS OF VIOLENCE ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE
INSURRECTION COMMITTED AT THE SEAT OF OUR COUNTRY'S DEMOCRACY, AND
EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES FOR ALL OF THE LIVES LOST

Introduced By: Representatives Potter, Blazejewski, Morales, Caldwell, Cortvriend,
Carson, Speakman, Donovan, Ajello, and Shallcross Smith

Date Introduced: January 10, 2022

Referred To: House Judiciary

1 WHEREAS, The peaceful transition of power is a hallmark of the United States as a
2 democratic republic – signaling the government’s responsibility to respect the will of the people
3 and providing legitimacy to our elections; uniting us as a people behind our country, our shared
4 ideals, and a constitutional form of government; and

5 WHEREAS, It is the belief of Americans that the leadership of our government should be
6 selected by the people through free and fair elections, not through violence or the whims of
7 authoritarian leaders; and

8 WHEREAS, President Joseph R. Biden Jr. was lawfully elected President of the United
9 States on November 3, 2020; and

10 WHEREAS, After losing the election on November 3, 2020, former President Donald J.
11 Trump misled his supporters about the results of the election and tried to coerce election officials
12 into changing election results and disenfranchising voters; and

13 WHEREAS, On Wednesday, January 6, 2021, President Trump held a rally in
14 Washington D.C., calling on his supporters to “fight like hell” and march to the U.S. Capitol
15 where the Joint Session of Congress was meeting to certify the electoral votes from all 50 states
16 and the District of Columbia in order to confirm President Joe Biden's victory; and

17 WHEREAS, Incited by outright lies and misinformation, and driven by the
18 misconception that their actions could encumber the true and just democratic process, the deadly
19 mob assaulted police officers, scaled walls, and broke windows and doors as they forced their

1 way into the U.S. Capitol; and

2 WHEREAS, Americans watched with disappointment, disbelief, and horror as hundreds
3 of insurrectionists stormed the building intent on wreaking havoc and stopping the progress
4 towards a peaceful transition of power. Insurgents brought with them zip-ties, raided key offices,
5 and stole important documents and electronics. A crowd of rioters chanted “Hang Mike Pence”
6 and a gallows was erected outside the Capitol. Reports surfaced of guns, tear gas, assaults on
7 Capitol Police, and vandalism inside the historic building and revered rotunda; and

8 WHEREAS, Legislators were quickly evacuated from the House and Senate Chambers as
9 the mob wandered the hallways, defacing offices and public property, and resisting attempts by
10 Capitol Police to bring about peace and safety; and

11 WHEREAS, Showing the resilience of our country, the Joint Session of Congress
12 reconvened on the evening of January 6th to certify President-elect Joe Biden’s electoral victory
13 and worked through the night until they completed the certification early the morning of January
14 7th; and

15 WHEREAS, United States Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick lost his life due to
16 injuries sustained while on duty defending our democracy; and

17 WHEREAS, United States Capitol Police Officer Howard Liebengood lost his life to
18 suicide three days after sustaining injuries while on duty defending our democracy; and

19 WHEREAS, Washington Metropolitan Police Department Officer Jeffrey Smith lost his
20 life to suicide nine days after sustaining injuries while on duty defending our democracy; and

21 WHEREAS, Washington Metropolitan Police Department Officer Kyle DeFreytag lost
22 his life to suicide six months after responding to the Capitol attack to defend our democracy; and

23 WHEREAS, Washington Metropolitan Police Department Officer Gunther Hashida lost
24 his life to suicide six months after responding to the Capitol attack to defend our democracy; and

25 WHEREAS, Ashli Babbitt lost her life due to injuries sustained while breaching the U.S.
26 Capitol; and

27 WHEREAS, Rosann Boyland lost her life due to injuries sustained while attempting to
28 breach the U.S. Capitol; and

29 WHEREAS, Benjamin Philips lost his life while present at the U.S. Capitol; and

30 WHEREAS, Kevin Greeson lost his life while present at the U.S. Capitol; and

31 WHEREAS, Despite these tragic consequences, former President Donald Trump and his
32 enablers have continued to falsely allege widespread voter fraud, promote conspiracy theories,
33 and undermine faith in our democratic institutions; and

34 WHEREAS, As we mark the one year anniversary of the deadly insurrectionist attack,

1 elected officials and civil servants have increasingly faced threats of violence; and

2 WHEREAS, All elected officials swear an oath to support and defend the Constitution of
3 the United States; now, therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives hereby mourns all of the lives lost; and
5 be it further

6 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives hereby continues to be committed to
7 defend the Constitution of the United States, protect our democracy, and condemn all acts of
8 political violence; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
10 transmit a duly certified copies of this resolution to Rhode Island's Congressional Delegation.

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