



SR0379

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1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, In 1996, the World Health Organization held the  
3 Forty-Ninth World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland and  
4 declared violence a leading public health problem; and

5 WHEREAS, The World Health Organization developed a  
6 typology of violence that identified three categories:  
7 self-directed violence (by oneself), interpersonal violence  
8 (by another person), and collective violence (by larger  
9 groups), which includes hate crimes, terrorist acts, and mob  
10 violence committed to advance a particular social agenda; and

11 WHEREAS, Hate crimes, school shootings, and community  
12 shootings have increased at alarming rates over the past eight  
13 years; and

14 WHEREAS, Hate groups have emerged as one of the greatest  
15 threats to public safety; from 2008 to 2012, the number of  
16 "patriot groups", including militias, multiplied by more than  
17 800%; and

18 WHEREAS, Violent extremist threats come from a range of  
19 groups and individuals, including domestic terrorists,  
20 homegrown violent extremists, as well as international  
21 terrorists, lone offenders or small groups who may be

1 radicalized to commit violence at home or attempt to travel  
2 overseas to become foreign fighters; and

3 WHEREAS, Between 1982 and 2011, mass shootings such as  
4 Sandy Hook, Columbine, and the Pulse Night Club occurred every  
5 200 days on average, but between 2011 and 2014, they occurred  
6 every 64 days; and

7 WHEREAS, Hate crimes targeting Muslims tripled in 2015,  
8 with attacks against Muslim Americans experiencing the biggest  
9 surge; there were 257 reports of assaults, attacks on mosques,  
10 and other hate crimes against Muslims, a jump of about 67% in  
11 2015; it was the highest total since 2001, when more than 480  
12 attacks occurred in the aftermath of the attacks of September  
13 11, 2001; and

14 WHEREAS, Attacks against transgender people have also  
15 sharply increased; according to FBI data, African Americans  
16 were the most frequent victims of hate crimes based on race,  
17 while Jews were the most frequent victims based on religion;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Fifty-Nine percent of the hate crimes that the  
20 F.B.I. recorded were based on the race, ethnicity, or ancestry  
21 of the victim; religious bias accounted for about 20% of all  
22 attacks; about 18% of attacks were based on sexual orientation;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Chicago's homicide and violent crime rates have  
3 been rising, and appear resistant to violence prevention  
4 efforts; in 2016, 762 people were killed in Chicago - 300 more  
5 than 2015, representing the largest one-year increase in any of  
6 America's biggest cities in the past 25 years; in January of  
7 2017, Chicago shootings and violence were up 24%; and

8 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Homeland Security  
9 has described violent extremism involving school shootings,  
10 mass shootings, terrorist acts, hate crimes, and gang violence,  
11 as a serious threat to public safety and has called upon each  
12 state to develop a comprehensive prevention strategy for  
13 countering violent extremism using a public health approach;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, There are three levels of public health violence  
16 prevention: primary prevention, which aims to prevent violence  
17 before it occurs; secondary prevention, which focuses on  
18 immediate responses to violence such as pre-hospital care; and  
19 emergency services or treatment, and tertiary prevention, that  
20 focuses on rehabilitation, reintegration, reducing long-term  
21 physical emotional or physical disability relevant to victims  
22 or perpetrators of violence; and

1           WHEREAS, A comprehensive response to violence protects and  
2 supports victims of violence, reduces the perpetration of  
3 violence, and changes the circumstances and conditions that  
4 give rise to violence in the first place; and

5           WHEREAS, Faith and community-based organizations provide  
6 critical leadership, knowledge, and passion when it comes to  
7 preventing and intervening in cycles of youth violence around  
8 the country; and

9           WHEREAS, All throughout the country, faith and non-profit  
10 organizations have taken on many tasks in order to keep young  
11 people safe and increase their positive opportunities; and

12           WHEREAS, Staff and volunteers from churches, mosques,  
13 temples, synagogues, and community-based organizations are  
14 actively involved in the lives of both victims and perpetrators  
15 of violence; collaborating with medical staff, law  
16 enforcement, courts, social service, business, and community  
17 activists; therefore, be it

18           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL  
19 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge faith-based  
20 organizations and community-based organizations to collaborate  
21 and build a multidisciplinary alliance that promotes community  
22 resilience and public safety through the development of

1 programs and strategies aimed to prevent violence and violent  
2 extremism in impoverished, underserved, and at-risk  
3 communities by providing media outreach and educational  
4 campaigns, after-school programs, mentoring programs, and  
5 other activities that replace negative messages, activities,  
6 beliefs, and attitudes with positive productive activities,  
7 beliefs, and messages, through a transparent and collaborative  
8 process with the community that takes full advantage of any  
9 available State and federal funding resources.