

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 173

Reps. Puri, Fitzgerald, Rheingans, Young, Glanville, Wooden, Scott, Skaggs, Martus, Brixie, Longjohn, Morgan, Tsernoglou, Witwer, Conlin, Wilson, Andrews, McKinney, Steckloff, Dievendorf, Wegela, Snyder, Grant, Herzberg, Rogers, Liberati, Breen, Miller, Tate, T. Carter, Myers-Phillips, Xiong, Koleszar, MacDonell, Price, Hope, O'Neal, Neeley, Weiss, Mentzer, Farhat, Edwards, Hoskins and B. Carter offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to condemn political violence in all forms and
2 affirm the commitment of the Michigan House of Representatives to
3 civility, safety, and the peaceful exercise of democracy.

4 Whereas, Democracy is built upon vigorous debate, free speech,
5 and the peaceful exchange of ideas, all of which are imperiled when
6 violence is used as a political weapon; and

7 Whereas, In recent years, the United States has witnessed a
8 disturbing escalation of politically motivated violence,

1 intimidation, and threats directed at public officials, their
2 families, and engaged citizens; and

3 Whereas, on July 13, 2024, President Donald Trump survived an
4 attempted assassination at a public rally, an incident that further
5 inflamed tensions and underscored the real dangers faced by
6 political figures; and

7 Whereas, On September 10, 2025, conservative activist Charlie
8 Kirk was assassinated while speaking at a public event, in yet
9 another attack designed to silence political expression through
10 violence; and

11 Whereas, On June 14, 2025, former Minnesota House Speaker
12 Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark Hortman, were killed in a
13 politically motivated attack, and State Senator John Hoffman and
14 his wife were seriously injured in the same incident; and

15 Whereas, In the early morning of April 13, 2025, an arsonist
16 set fire to Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro's residence and was
17 the target of violent threats, reflecting the unacceptable risks
18 imposed on those serving in public office; and

19 Whereas, Members of Congress have likewise faced violence,
20 including Representative Gabrielle Giffords, grievously injured in
21 a 2011 shooting; Representative Steve Scalise, critically injured
22 in a 2017 attack during a congressional baseball practice; and
23 former Speaker Nancy Pelosi and her husband, Paul Pelosi, who was
24 brutally attacked in their home in 2022; and

25 Whereas, Michigan has also been touched directly by these
26 threats, including the 2020 kidnapping plot against Governor
27 Gretchen Whitmer, which highlighted the dangers extremist violence
28 poses not only to leaders but to the stability of our democracy;
29 and

1 Whereas, These incidents, though targeting individuals of
2 differing parties and ideologies, share a common danger: they seek
3 to erode democratic participation, silence debate, and intimidate
4 those who step forward to serve; and

5 Whereas, Experts and reports indicate the U.S. is experiencing
6 its highest level of political violence since the 1970s.

7 Whereas, According to a University of Maryland researcher who
8 tracks terrorism, the U.S. recorded roughly 150 politically
9 motivated attacks in the first half of 2025, nearly double the
10 number from the same period in 2024.

11 Whereas, Increased rhetoric: Americans increasingly believe
12 that harsh political rhetoric is fueling violence, according to a
13 September 2025 Reuters/Ipsos poll.

14 Whereas, Political violence has no place in Michigan, in the
15 United States, or in any society that values freedom, justice, and
16 the rule of law; now, therefore, be it

17 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
18 this legislative body condemn political violence in all forms and
19 affirm the commitment of the Michigan House of Representatives to
20 civility, safety, and the peaceful exercise of democracy.; and be
21 it further

22 Resolved, That we reaffirm our commitment to the principles of
23 civility, respect, and peaceful discourse as the only legitimate
24 means to resolve political differences in our democracy; and be it
25 further

26 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
27 President of the United States, the Governor of Michigan, the
28 Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of
29 Representatives, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United

1 States Senate, and members of the Michigan congressional
2 delegation.