



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Sherman A. Packard
Speaker of the House

December 2, 2021

Members of the House,

Since taking our oath of office in December, we have been made aware of insensitive and unacceptable anti-Semitic social media posts of three NH House Representatives. We firmly agree that any form of hate speech - anti-Semitism, racism, bigotry – has no place in our society. Unequivocally, it is unacceptable that any member of this historic legislative body is involved in perpetuating hate in any form.

Whether these individuals knew the content of their posts was anti-Semitic or not, they had the responsibility to research the source of the information, and the context before posting it. As elected officials, it is our duty to our constituents. They deserve to know that we give the same level of examination to information we share on social media as we do to legislation that we act upon on their behalf.

In an age where information is freely shared and circulated on-line, with little discernment, it is disappointing to see how quickly hate speech and intolerance are spread and amplified. With the recent incidents concerning anti-Semitic propaganda, we have heard from countless members of the NH Jewish community as well as the Jewish membership in the House, asking us to speak out against this behavior.

As members of leadership, we realize the impact our decisions have within the legislature and want to use these unfortunate moments as a learning experience for each member – all of whom have shown remorse and have apologized.

It is not our intent to dismiss their behavior, but it is our intent to remind all legislators of the weight their word carries, and to be mindful and respectful of the different backgrounds, ethnicities, and beliefs that make up our Granite State. As legislators, we are held to a higher standard and are expected to lead by example.

We stand united against anti-Semitism. We urge members of the House to act with dignity and respect on social media and in their daily actions with each other and their constituents. And we urge every citizen of our great state to speak out against hatred, bigotry, and intolerance.

Respectfully,

Sherman A. Packard
Speaker of the House

Representative Renny Cushing
Democratic Leader