

House Remonstrance No. 1

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MCCANN BEATTY.

2537H.02I

1 **WHEREAS**, on August 30, 2017 Rep. Warren Love responded to the vandalism of a
2 confederate monument in Springfield, Missouri by calling for the lynching of the individuals
3 who perpetrated the crime. On Facebook, Rep. Love specifically wrote “This is totally against
4 the law. I hope they are found & hung from a tall tree with a long rope.”; and
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6 **WHEREAS**, the specific violence called for, lynching, is a term designed to encourage
7 “murder by mob” and inspire racial hatred and animus; and
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9 **WHEREAS**, the practice of lynching holds a particular meaning in the history of the
10 United States, specifically to engage in extra-judicial murder to terrorize African-Americans;
11 and
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13 **WHEREAS**, according to an exhaustive study by the Equal Justice Initiative, Missouri
14 had the second highest number of racial terror lynchings in non-Southern states with sixty
15 lynchings occurring between 1877 and 1950; and
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17 **WHEREAS**, in the early 1900s, a lynching occurred in Springfield, Missouri, the same
18 city where Rep. Love called for a lynching; and
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20 **WHEREAS**, according to research conducted by the Equal Justice Initiative, Springfield,
21 Missouri has experience with lynching when “in April 1906, two black men named Horace
22 Duncan and Fred Coker were accused of rape. Though both men had alibis confirmed by their
23 employer, a mob refused to wait for a trial. Instead, the mob seized both men from jail, hanged
24 them from Gottfried Tower near the town square, and burned and shot their corpses while a
25 crowd of 5000 white men, women, and children watched.”; and
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2 **WHEREAS**, it is the obligation of all elected officials to uphold the rule of law and
3 denounce political violence in all forms; and

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4 **WHEREAS**, Martin Luther King, Jr. is quoted as saying: “It may be true that the law
5 cannot make a man love me, but it can stop him from lynching me, and I think that's pretty
6 important.”; and

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8 **WHEREAS**, Rep. Love’s comments were a call to action for individuals to perpetrate
9 mob violence instead of going through the constitutionally guaranteed judicial process to
10 determine guilt:

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12 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the members of the Missouri House
13 of Representatives, Ninety-ninth General Assembly, First Regular Session, hereby remonstrate
14 against Representative Warren Love of the 125th District for aspiration that a common vandal
15 be subject to extra-judicial murder in a fashion historically associated with domestic terrorism
16 against a particular group of American citizens.

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