

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 82

Senators Brinks, Chang and Polehanki offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to condemn political violence in all forms,
2 regardless of political party or ideology, and affirm the
3 commitment of the Michigan Senate to peaceful dispute resolution
4 through lawful, democratic means.

5 Whereas, Robust debate, freedom of expression, civic
6 participation, fair elections, and the peaceful exchange of ideas
7 are the basis for democracy, all of which become endangered when
8 violence is used as a political weapon; and

9 Whereas, Political violence includes a wide range of actions,
10 from symbolic intimidation to lethal attacks, and seeks to
11 undermine public institutions, reduce trust, and suppress political
12 participation; and

13 Whereas, According to research from the University of

1 Maryland, there were approximately 150 politically motivated
2 attacks in the United States during the first six months of 2025,
3 nearly doubling the number of attacks seen over the same period in
4 2024; and

5 Whereas, Political violence impacts individuals across the
6 political spectrum at the federal, state, and local level, as well
7 as journalists, activists, and public figures; and

8 Whereas, Proponents of political violence seek to suppress
9 free speech and debate by creating a climate of fear and
10 intimidation in hopes of stifling civic participation from
11 constituents, public figures, and activists; and

12 Whereas, The Michigan Senate values the right of Michiganders
13 to freely express themselves and feel safe when doing so, as civic
14 engagement is crucial for a successful democracy; and

15 Whereas, We urge law enforcement authorities at all levels to
16 thoroughly investigate, prosecute, and hold accountable those who
17 commit to incite political violence; and

18 Whereas, The Michigan Senate commends law enforcement and all
19 public officials who work to respond to such violence; and

20 Whereas, We condemn actions and rhetoric that is intended to
21 harass, intimidate, silence, and dehumanize public officials,
22 political candidates, public figures, and their respective family
23 members and staff; now, therefore, be it

24 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
25 body condemn political violence in all forms, regardless of
26 political party or ideology, and affirm the commitment of the
27 Michigan Senate to peaceful dispute resolution through lawful,
28 democratic means.