



Kulanu Antisemitism Workgroup  
of Ohavi Zedek Synagogue

Ohavi Zedek

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We, the Kulanu Antisemitism Workgroup of Ohavi Zedek Synagogue, condemn Vermont State Senator Sam Douglass for the racist language he used in a Young Republicans group chat, as well as for his failure to immediately condemn racist and antisemitic language used by others in the exchanges.

This national group chat promoted, adopted and embraced hate speech. This was not a single episode of speech; a Politico article (link below) on this conduct reviews a period of over seven months. Such highlighted speech included racial slurs and derogatory messages; promoted violence; restated antisemitic tropes; hero-worshipped Hitler; mocked the Holocaust and its victims; glorified sexual assault; and utilized white supremacist slogans and symbols. This rhetoric contributes to making Vermont a hostile place for Jews as well as Black, Indigenous, LGBTQ, People of Color, and Women. It is the duty of our elected officials to disavow prejudices, not just in public but in every interaction.

Senator Douglass's decision to participate in the group chat may have been an error in judgment, but his ongoing participation in the group while hate speech regularly filled its media is inexcusable. Apologies for engaging in such speech are not enough, for acquiescence to such speech promotes the very evil which needs to be suppressed.

Senator Douglass has violated his sworn oath to do equal right and justice to all persons, for all Vermont citizens, and we call on him to resign.

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<https://www.politico.com/news/2025/10/14/private-chat-among-young-gop-club-members-00592146>