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BIPOC Leaders and Organizers Denounce Representative Nicole Klein-Knight

Leaders across the state have joined together to denounce and condemn racist and bigoted actions from the aforementioned representative.

Concord NH - BIPOC community leaders and organizers across New Hampshire come together to condemn the actions of Representative Nicole Klein-Knight of Hillsborough District 11 during the month of January 2022.

As Black, brown, and indigenous people living in New Hampshire, many of us have experienced verbal abuse from the use of derogatory and bigoted words. Whether at school, walking through our own neighborhoods, stepping onto college campus, grocery shopping, really anywhere - BIPOC in New Hampshire are often made to feel unwelcome. Our ancestors fought tirelessly to liberate our people and create a more equitable society where we can have an opportunity to thrive. Our experiences remind us to honor our ancestors and keep up that fight.

When any individual who holds political power uses racist or bigoted language, we believe there is no room to ignore or give a pass. We will not remain silent when potential harm is being done to our community. While we believe in promoting growth and supporting each other in learning to do and be better, we also believe in accountability. When powerful people commit repeated offenses to marginalized Granite Staters, a line must be drawn to protect people and prevent instigating further harm or trauma.

Rep. Klein-Knight has worked alongside many of us in the past, but unfortunately her behavior the past few months has been alarming and has become increasingly dangerous. The representative has cut ties with nearly every BIPOC organizer in the state and made baseless and biased accusations against many of us. This behavior culminated with an interaction that happened this month in the State House where she accosted a young, unpaid, Black organizer after he testified on a bill in committee. In their conversation she said "n*****" multiple times to make a point.

Despite not using that hateful word at this young man directly, Rep. Klein-Knight crossed a line in aggressively using a word with such a horrible history to intimidate a

Black constituent. This was only made worse when she defended her use of the word, despite his repeated asks for her to stop, and proceeded to call security on this same constituent. Not only did she verbally abuse him, but the representative put this young man's safety at risk in a situation she started, continued, and escalated.

While we explore avenues in the state house to report this incident, we believe the situation between Rep. Klein-Knight and BIPOC in New Hampshire escalated to the point of needed community action. We are calling on people and organizations who are in relationship with Rep. Klein-Knight to hold her accountable for her actions against BIPOC organizers in New Hampshire. Whether this means encouraging her to seek help, retracting endorsements, or calling for resignation. Her habitual aggression and disregard is tearing apart the progressive community in NH, endangering BIPOC organizers' lives and livelihoods and cannot be ignored any longer.

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