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By:  Vo H.R. No. 538

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, People of Asian descent have been an integral part of Texas' culture and history for more than 150 years; and

WHEREAS, Texas is home to 1.5 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and there are more than 150,000 Asian American-owned businesses across the state that generate $64 million in annual revenue; over 100,000 Texas health care workers of Asian descent are serving on the frontlines in the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Escalating anti-Asian rhetoric has resulted in Asian Americans being attacked and scapegoated for the COVID-19 pandemic and has encouraged vandals to target Asian American businesses and institutions; in San Antonio, a Vietnamese American-owned noodle shop was vandalized with racist graffiti; in Austin, a Buddhist temple was desecrated by an intruder; and

WHEREAS, Anti-Asian American hate crimes increased by almost 150 percent over the previous year in America's most populous cities, and there have been more than 2,800 reported hate incidents against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders from the start of the pandemic; in San Angelo, a Korean student was assaulted after standing up for himself to a racist neighbor; in Midland, a Burmese family of three, including children ages two and six, were assaulted and stabbed while shopping for groceries; eight people, including six Asian American women, who were murdered in day spas in the Atlanta, Georgia, area are the most recent casualties of anti-Asian bigotry in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Hateful rhetoric and violence against Asian Americans has increased since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, and there is much work to be done to ensure their safety and well-being; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby strongly condemn and denounce anti-Asian bigotry, racism, and all hateful speech and violent action related to COVID-19; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge federal, state, and local law enforcement officials to investigate and document all credible reports of hate crimes, incidents, and threats against the Asian American community in Texas.