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H.C.R. No. 66

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Asians account for five percent of Texas' population
2 and are the fastest growing racial group in the state; and

3 WHEREAS, Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, there has been a
4 dramatic increase in the number of hate crimes and incidents of hate
5 directed at Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs), with the
6 use of terms such as "Chinese virus," "Wuhan virus," and "kung-flu"
7 perpetuating this disturbing escalation; and

8 WHEREAS, The group Stop AAPI Hate began collecting incident
9 reports on March 19, 2020, and in under four months, it received 63
10 from Texas alone; while shunning and verbal harassment, including
11 racial slurs and name-calling, accounted for most of the incidents,
12 physical assaults constituted 22 percent of reports from the state,
13 more than twice the national rate of nine percent; and

14 WHEREAS, One high-profile act of violence occurred on March
15 14, 2020, when a 19-year-old man, looking for someone to blame for
16 the COVID-19 pandemic, attacked an Asian American family with a
17 knife in Midland; the FBI called the case a hate crime; and

18 WHEREAS, In Houston's Chinatown, rumors spread on social
19 media falsely claiming that an Asian supermarket in the area was
20 shut down by the government due to coronavirus disease (COVID-19);
21 customers avoided the area, driving losses that reached 70 percent
22 for many Asian American businesses; businesses owned by Asian
23 Americans have also been targeted for vandalism during the COVID-19
24 pandemic; and

1 WHEREAS, Nationally, Stop AAPI Hate received more than 2,800
2 firsthand accounts of anti-Asian hate by the end of 2020; over 7
3 percent of these involved Asian Americans over the age of 60;
4 attacks have continued to occur in 2021, leaving many seniors
5 afraid to walk in their own neighborhoods; two terrible incidents
6 captured on video include a vicious assault on a 91-year-old in the
7 Chinatown neighborhood of Oakland, California, and another on an
8 84-year-old San Franciscan, who later died; and

9 WHEREAS, The number of victims is likely higher than official
10 tallies, since many incidents are not reported to law enforcement,
11 due to past negative experiences with law enforcement or a lack of
12 faith in a response; nevertheless, Asian American families are well
13 aware of the growing frequency of violence and harassment,
14 prompting many to keep their children at home learning remotely,
15 rather than returning to schools as they reopen; and

16 WHEREAS, The pandemic has brought the problem of anti-AAPI
17 racism to the forefront, and it is imperative that this issue be
18 addressed; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas
20 hereby strongly condemn racism against Asian Americans and Pacific
21 Islanders; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas
23 call on state law enforcement officials, working with federal and
24 local officials, to investigate and prosecute all credible reports
25 of hate crimes and incidents and threats against AAPIs in Texas;
26 and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas

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1 express its support for public and private efforts to eradicate
2 anti-AAPI racism in all its forms.