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H.R. No. 538

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

15 WHEREAS, Anti-Asian American hate crimes increased by almost
16 150 percent over the previous year in America's most populous
17 cities, and there have been more than 2,800 reported hate incidents
18 against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders from the start of the
19 pandemic; in San Angelo, a Korean student was assaulted after
20 standing up for himself to a racist neighbor; in Midland, a Burmese
21 family of three, including children ages two and six, were
22 assaulted and stabbed while shopping for groceries; eight people,
23 including six Asian American women, who were murdered in day spas in
24 the Atlanta, Georgia, area are the most recent casualties of

1 anti-Asian bigotry in the United States; and

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

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

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