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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONDEMNING THE SURGING VIOLENCE AND INTOLERANCE AGAINST ASIAN  
AMERICANS

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Fenton-Fung, Ackerman, Felix,  
Caldwell, Filippi, McEntee, Morales, and Kazarian

Date Introduced: March 30, 2021

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, Historically, the United States as a whole has discriminated and restricted  
2 our Asian American population through the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the  
3 internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, and the formation of the “Asiatic-Barred  
4 Zone” in the Immigration Act of 1917; and

5           WHEREAS, Since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, racial animus and crimes  
6 targeting Asian Americans have risen dramatically, exemplified by the use of the racist reference  
7 to Covid-19 as the “China virus” despite the World Health Organization’s guidelines in disease  
8 naming; and

9           WHEREAS, Stop AAPI Hate, a coalition that tracks incidents of violence and harassment  
10 against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States, reported nearly 3,800  
11 instances of discrimination against Asians in the past year, including 503 incidents in 2021,  
12 compared with roughly 100 incidents annually in previous years; and

13           WHEREAS, In addition to this significant increase in incidents of violence and  
14 harassment, Asian-owned businesses have seen a dramatic decline in revenue and patronage; and

15           WHEREAS, Most recently, eight innocent people were shot in three spas in the Atlanta  
16 area of State of Georgia, with six of the eight victims being Asian American women, which raises  
17 the fear that they were targeted due to their race. No provocation led to these attacks; and

18           WHEREAS, Rhode Island has a vibrant, productive and contributing Asian American  
19 community numbering more than 37,000, the fifth largest ethnic group in the State; and

1           WHEREAS, Rhode Island was founded on the belief and fully embraces diversity by  
2 supporting a just and inclusive society; and

3           WHEREAS, All Rhode Islanders can play a role in establishing a safe and welcoming  
4 community by intervening and reporting instances of hate and discrimination. Reporting these  
5 incidents is critical to holding perpetrators accountable and supporting our vibrant Asian  
6 American communities; now, therefore be it

7           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
8 strongly condemns these acts of hatred, racism, and violence against Asians Americans and  
9 moreover urges all Rhode Islanders to speak out against all forms of discrimination, harassment,  
10 and violence directed at Asian Americans; and be it further

11           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
12 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Rhode Island Association of Chinese  
13 Americans, the South Asian Student Organization at the University of Rhode Island, the Brown  
14 University Korean-American Student Association, the Center for Southeast Asians, the Filipino-  
15 American Association of New Port County, Inc., H.O.P.E Foundation International, the India  
16 Association of Rhode Island, the Alliance of Rhode Island Southeast Asians for Education  
17 (ARISE), and Providence Youth Student Movement for Justice & Love (PrYSM).

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