

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 908

Condemning all forms of anti-Asian sentiment as related to COVID-19.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 25, 2020

Ms. MENG (for herself, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Ms. SPEIER, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CORREA, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. OMAR, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CASE, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. TRONE, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KILMER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. PORTER, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. BEYER, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. COSTA, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. KIM, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. SOTO, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. POCAN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. MCEACHIN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. BASS, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. NADLER, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. EVANS, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. WILD, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, and Ms. CRAIG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Condemning all forms of anti-Asian sentiment as related
to COVID–19.

Whereas 23,000,000 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders
account for 7 percent of the Nation’s population in the
United States;

Whereas over 2,000,000 Asian Americans and Pacific Island-
ers are working on the frontlines of this COVID–19 pan-
demic in health care, law enforcement, first responders,
transportation, supermarkets, and other service indus-
tries;

Whereas the use of anti-Asian terminology and rhetoric re-
lated to COVID-19, such as the “Chinese Virus”,
“Wuhan Virus”, and “Kung-flu” have perpetuated anti-
Asian stigma;

Whereas since January 2020, there has been a dramatic in-
crease in reports of hate crimes and incidents against
those of Asian descent;

Whereas according to a recent study, there were over 400
cases related to COVID-19 anti-Asian discrimination be-
tween February 9, 2020, and March 7, 2020;

Whereas the increased use of anti-Asian rhetoric has resulted
in Asian Americans being harassed, assaulted, and
scapegoated for the COVID–19 pandemic;

Whereas in March 2020, anti-Asian violence includes: a
woman wearing a mask was kicked and punched at a
New York City subway station; two children and two
adults were stabbed at a wholesale grocery in Midland,
Texas; a couple was assaulted and robbed by a group of
attackers in Philadelphia; and a 16-year-old boy was sent

to the hospital after being attacked by bullies in Los Angeles, California;

Whereas the increased use of anti-Asian rhetoric has also resulted in Asian-American businesses being targeted for vandalism;

Whereas there are approximately 2 million Asian American-owned businesses that generate over \$700 billion in annual revenue and employ nearly 4.5 million workers;

Whereas the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recognize that naming COVID–19 by its geographic location or linking it to a specific ethnicity perpetuates stigma;

Whereas in 2015, the WHO issued guidance calling on media outlets, scientists, and national authorities to avoid naming infectious diseases for locations to avoid stigmatizing groups of people;

Whereas, on February 27, 2020, the Secretary of Health and Human Services stated “ethnicity is not what causes the novel coronavirus” and that it is inappropriate and inaccurate to call COVID-19 the “Chinese virus”;

Whereas, on February 28, 2020, Dr. Mitch Wolfe, the Chief Medical Officer of the CDC said, “Stigma is the enemy of public health”;

Whereas, on March 10, 2020, Dr. Robert Redfield, the Director of the CDC, testified that use of the term “Chinese coronavirus” is wrong and inappropriate; and

Whereas the Secretary General of the United Nations called for international solidarity and an end to any ill-founded discrimination of the outbreak’s victims: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) calls on all public officials to condemn and
3 denounce any and all anti-Asian sentiment in any
4 form;

5 (2) recognizes that the health and safety of all
6 Americans, no matter their background, must be of
7 utmost priority;

8 (3) condemns all manifestations of expressions
9 of racism, xenophobia, discrimination, anti-Asian
10 sentiment, scapegoating, and ethnic or religious in-
11 tolerance;

12 (4) calls on Federal law enforcement officials,
13 working with State and local officials—

14 (A) to expeditiously investigate and docu-
15 ment all credible reports of hate crimes and in-
16 cidents and threats against the Asian-American
17 community in the United States;

18 (B) to collect data to document the rise of
19 incidences of hate crimes due to COVID–19;
20 and

21 (C) to hold the perpetrators of those
22 crimes, incidents, or threats accountable and
23 bring such perpetrators to justice; and

1 (5) recommits United States leadership in
2 building more inclusive, diverse, and tolerant soci-
3 eties—

4 (A) to prioritize language access and
5 inclusivity in communication practices; and

6 (B) to combat misinformation and dis-
7 crimination that put Asian Americans at risk.

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