

State of Vermont

Senate Chamber



Montpelier, Vermont

Senate Resolution

By Senators Ram, Balint, Benning, Bray, Champion, Clarkson, Cummings, Hardy, Hooker, Kitchel, Lyons, McCormack, Nitka, Parent, Pearson, Perchlik, Pollina, Sears, Sirotkin, Terenzini and White,

S.R. 10. Senate resolution condemning anti-Asian and anti-Pacific Islander hate in the United States and recognizing May 2021 as Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in Vermont.

Whereas, Americans of Asian descent, including Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, have made noteworthy contributions to our society, and

Whereas, their roles during the COVID-19 pandemic as first responders, health care providers, and medical scientists have been vital, and

Whereas, despite the historic election of Kamala Harris as our nation's first Vice President of South Asian heritage, the presence of hateful attitudes towards Asian Americans attracted national attention with the recent violent deaths of six Asian women in the Atlanta area, and

Whereas, the Stop AAPI Hate Reporting Center reported 6,603 incidents of hatred directed at Asian Americans from March 19, 2020 through March 31, 2021, with the number of these incidents having "increased significantly . . . during March 2021," and

Whereas, 12.6 percent of the reported hate incidents were categorized as physical assaults, including attacks against the elderly, and 65.2 percent were classified as verbal harassment, and

Whereas, in August 2020, several United Nations anti-discrimination groups issued a joint document reporting that "[r]acially motivated violence and other incidents against Asian-Americans have reached an alarming level across the United States since the outbreak of COVID-19," and

Whereas, on April 29, 2021, the United States Senate, by unanimous consent, passed Senate Resolution 200 "condemning recent hate crimes committed against Asian American and Pacific Islanders," which called on federal and state officials to "expeditiously and vigorously investigate all reports of" hate crimes against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and to hold the perpetrators of these crimes accountable, and

Whereas, now is an important moment to recognize, as has President Biden in a recent presidential proclamation, the importance of Asian Americans to our nation's strength and to its rich cultural diversity, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate:

That the Senate of the State of Vermont condemns anti-Asian and anti-Pacific Islander hate in the United States and recognizes May 2021 as Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in Vermont, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Asian Pacific Islander Desi Americans of Vermont and to the Vermont Congressional Delegation.