

House Resolution 1643

By: Representatives Park of the 101st, Cannon of the 58th, Nguyen of the 89th, Kausche of the 50th, Clark of the 108th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Condemning racism and discrimination against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Asian American and Pacific Islander community is a diverse population
4 comprising more than 45 distinct ethnicities with more than 100 dialects; and

5 WHEREAS, the 23 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders living in the United States
6 account for 7 percent of the nation's population; and

7 WHEREAS, there are approximately 2 million Asian American and Pacific Islander-owned
8 businesses that generate over \$700 billion in annual revenue and employ nearly 4.5 million
9 workers; and

10 WHEREAS, more than 2 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are working on the
11 frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic as health care professionals, law enforcement officials,
12 first responders, and workers in the transportation, grocery, and service industries; and

13 WHEREAS, the use of racist terminology and rhetoric related to COVID-19, such as the
14 Chinese Virus, Wuhan Virus, and Kung-flu, have perpetuated hatred and discrimination
15 against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; and

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

19 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recognizes that naming
20 COVID-19 by its geographic location or linking it to a specific ethnicity perpetuates stigma,
21 and on March 10, 2020, Dr. Robert Redfield, the director of the CDC, testified that use of the
22 term "Chinese coronavirus" is wrong and inappropriate; and

23 WHEREAS, despite these remarks, the continued use of racist rhetoric has resulted in Asian
24 Americans being harassed, assaulted, and scapegoated for the COVID-19 pandemic; and

25 WHEREAS, in eight weeks of operation, the STOP AAPI HATE reporting center collected
26 1,843 reports of incidents targeting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in 45 states,
27 including acts of physical and verbal harassment, physical assault, vandalism, and
28 discrimination in the workplace, among other forms of xenophobic discrimination; and

29 WHEREAS, this discrimination has led to acts of violence directly perpetrated against Asian
30 Americans and Pacific Islanders, including members of a Chinese American family with
31 children aged 2 and 6 who were stabbed while grocery shopping in Midland, Texas; an Asian
32 woman wearing a face mask who was kicked and punched in a New York City subway
33 station; and Asian American owners of a Japanese restaurant in San Francisco and a Chinese
34 restaurant in Seattle who suffered vandalism, broken windows, and graffiti; and

35 WHEREAS, these acts are, unfortunately, only the most recent manifestation of a longer
36 history of anti-Asian racism in the United States that includes the Chinese Exclusion Act of
37 1882, which was the first law in the United States to bar immigration on the basis of race, as
38 well as the forced internment of nearly 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II;
39 and

40 WHEREAS, to avoid repeating the mistakes of our past, every effort should be made to
41 condemn and denounce racist rhetoric that has led to acts of violence against Asian
42 Americans and Pacific Islanders because of the color of their skin.

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
44 the members of this body condemn racism and discrimination against Asian Americans and
45 Pacific Islanders.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
47 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
48 public and the press.