

## House Resolution 1643

By: Representatives Park of the 101<sup>st</sup>, Cannon of the 58<sup>th</sup>, Nguyen of the 89<sup>th</sup>, Kausche of the 50<sup>th</sup>, Clark of the 108<sup>th</sup>, 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.