

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 137

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 8, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator KRISTIN M. CORRADO

District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Condemns hate crimes against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** condemning hate crimes against Asian
2 Americans and Pacific Islanders.

3

4 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey has nearly one million Asian Americans and
5 Pacific Islanders residing in the State, approximately 10 percent of
6 the State population; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Twenty three million Asian Americans and Pacific
8 Islanders account for seven percent of the population of the United
9 States; and

10 **WHEREAS**, There are approximately two million Asian American
11 owned businesses in the United States that generate over \$700
12 billion in annual revenue and employ nearly 4.5 million workers;
13 and

14 **WHEREAS**, Across the United States, over two million Asian
15 Americans and Pacific Islanders are working on the frontlines of
16 the COVID-19 pandemic in fields such as health care, law
17 enforcement, first responders, transportation, and other service
18 industries; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Following the spread of COVID-19 in 2020, there has
20 been a dramatic increase in hate crimes and violence against Asian
21 Americans and Pacific Islanders; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Between March 19, 2020 and February 28, 2021, there
23 were 3,795 firsthand accounts of anti-Asian and Pacific Islander
24 hate crimes reported from the 50 States and the District of
25 Colombia; and

26 **WHEREAS**, During that timeframe, race was cited as the primary
27 reason for discrimination, making up over 90 percent of the
28 incidents; and

29 **WHEREAS**, During that same timeframe, Asian American and Pacific
30 Islander youths under 20 years old made up approximately 13
31 percent of the victims, and the elderly over 60 years old made up
32 approximately seven percent of the victims; and

33 **WHEREAS**, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have made
34 significant contributions to America's economy and culture; and

35 **WHEREAS**, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are a significant
36 and important community in New Jersey; and

37 **WHEREAS**, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders should not live in
38 fear of attack and discrimination, and verbal and physical attacks
39 against these communities are intolerable and should be condemned
40 by all persons of this State; now, therefore,

41

42 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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44 1. This House condemns and denounces all anti-Asian and
45 Pacific Islander sentiment, and condemns and denounces all
46 manifestations or expressions of racism or ethnic intolerance
47 against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

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2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the Governor, the Attorney General, the President and Vice President of the United States, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress elected from this State.

STATEMENT

New Jersey has nearly one million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders residing in the State, approximately 10 percent of the State population. Twenty three million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders account for seven percent of the population of the United States. Across the United States, over two million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are working on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic in fields such as health care, law enforcement, first responders, transportation, and other service industries.

Following the spread of COVID-19 in 2020, there has been a dramatic increase in hate crimes and violence against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Between March 19, 2020 and February 28, 2021, there were 3,795 firsthand accounts of anti-Asian and Pacific Islander hate crimes reported from the 50 States and the District of Colombia. During that timeframe, race was cited as the primary reason for discrimination, making up over 90 percent of the incidents. In addition, Asian American and Pacific Islander youths under 20 years old made up approximately 13 percent of the victims, and the elderly over 60 years old made up approximately seven percent of the victims.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have made significant contributions to America's economy and culture, and they are a significant and important community in New Jersey. They should not live in fear of attack and discrimination, and verbal and physical attacks against these communities are intolerable and should be condemned by all persons of this State.