

Solidarity With the Asian Community

Discharged from the Committee on Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion with a vote 8-0-2 and with a recommendation to pass with a vote of 7-0-3

AUTHOR(S): Senator Enoma Egiebor, Senator Nicole Arnold

SPONSOR(S): Senator Dana Yun, Senator Ari Kelo, Senator Aynur Namik, Senator Colton Johnson, Speaker Pro Tempore Cody Bainbridge, Senator Nataly Esparza

ENDORSEMENT(S): Asian American Student Housing Association, Asian American Association

WHEREAS, in 2015, the World Health Organization called on people to stop naming viruses based on nations and people¹ because it fosters “backlash against members of particular religious or ethnic communities” this backlash has had severe repercussions for peoples’ lives and well-being; and,

WHEREAS, unfortunately, world leaders and racist individuals across the globe have taken it upon themselves to make Asians a scapegoat for the COVID-19 Pandemic. Notably, former President Trump, popularized the use of phrases like “China Virus” and “Kung Flu”, putting the blame on Asians for the pandemic, and endangering them²; and,

WHEREAS, hate crimes against Asian Americans have increased since the beginning of this pandemic with over 2,800 anti-Asian hate crimes being reported between March to December 2020³; and,

WHEREAS, at the intersection of racism and misogyny, out of the rise of these hate crimes Asian women have faced the majority of these harrowing attack⁴s; and,

WHEREAS, there has been a rise in violent and disgusting attacks on Asians, especially against the elderly, which has resulted in deaths and other forms of harm; and,

WHEREAS, it is important to bring attention to and spread awareness of these horrific crimes because remaining silent against injustices is being complicit to anti-Asian discrimination and xenophobia; and,

WHEREAS, incidents such as those of Angelo Quinto, who died after a police officer kneeled on his neck for five minutes⁵, Noel Quintana, a 61 year-old Filipino man whose face was slashed in New York City⁶, the 91 year-old Chinese man who was brutally pushed in Oakland⁷, the Vietnamese woman who was assaulted and robbed in San Jose⁸, and too many others to name, are not afforded sufficient media coverage and awareness; and,

¹ [World Health Organization News](#)

² [Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council](#)

³ [Stop AAPI Hate](#)

⁴ [Washington Post](#)

⁵ [CNN](#)

⁶ [NBC](#)

⁷ [ABC](#)

⁸ [USA Today](#)

- WHEREAS,** the Asian American Cultural Center provides resources and a space to address the needs and interests of Asian American and Asian International students on campus; and,
- LET IT BE RESOLVED,** the Illinois Student Government acknowledges that these instances of violence and discrimination are not isolated, but occur both on campus and in the Campaign-Urbana community; and,
- LET IT BE RESOLVED,** the Illinois Student Government urges the University provide increased funding to the Asian American Cultural Center and Asian American Studies Department; and,
- LET IT BE RESOLVED,** the Illinois Student Government insists that the University provide more opportunities for education and training that address anti-Asian violence and discrimination; and,
- LET IT BE RESOLVED,** the Illinois Student Government will co-sponsor a virtual training with the Asian American Cultural Center and Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Chicago to combat the rise in xenophobia, harassment, and discrimination; and,
- LET IT BE RESOLVED,** the Illinois Student Government vehemently condemns anti-Asian hate crimes and stands in solidarity with the Asian community during these troubling and uncertain times; and,
- LET IT BE RESOLVED,** The Senate requests the President direct the Executive to take any action necessary and proper to carry out the provisions of this resolution.
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