



HR-23 (2021-2022)

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REVISED FEBRUARY 16, 2021

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2021–2022 REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE RESOLUTION

NO. 23

Introduced by Assembly Member Low

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bonta, Chau, Chiu, Choi, Kalra, Lee, ~~and Muratsuehi~~ *Muratsuchi, Aguiar-Curry, Arambula, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Bigelow, Bloom, Boerner Horvath, Burke, Calderon, Carrillo, Cervantes, Cooley, Cooper, Cunningham, Megan Dahle, Fong, Friedman, Gabriel, Eduardo Garcia, Gipson, Lorena Gonzalez, Gray, Grayson, Holden, Irwin, Jones-Sawyer, Kamlager, Kiley, Lackey, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Mullin, Nazarian, O'Donnell, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Rendon, Reyes, Luz Rivas, Robert Rivas, Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Salas, Santiago, Smith, Stone, Ting, Valladares, Villapudua, Voepel, Waldron, Ward, Wicks, and Wood*)

February 12, 2021

Relative to hate crimes.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

HR 23, as introduced, Low.

WHEREAS, The Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council and Chinese for Affirmative Action launched a hate incident-reporting internet website, titled "Stop AAPI Hate," at the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak in March of 2020; and

WHEREAS, The Stop AAPI Hate reporting center documented over 2,800 hate incidents against Asian Pacific Islander (API) Americans in 2020; and

WHEREAS, Over 700 of these incidents occurred in the bay area of California; and

WHEREAS, Racism toward APIs has always existed, such as the 19th-century scapegoating of APIs, also known as the "Yellow Peril"; and

WHEREAS, Racism against APIs has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Politically charged and culturally insensitive rhetoric referring to COVID-19 as the “Chinese virus” or “kung flu” further encourages racism, prejudice, and hate crimes against APIs; and

WHEREAS, The promotion of such language by former President Donald Trump during his term further propagated anti-API sentiments in light of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, On January 31, 2021, three elderly Asian Americans were assaulted in the City of Oakland’s Chinatown District, including a 91-year-old Asian man who sustained serious injuries, such as lacerations, abrasions, and a contusion to the left thumb, in what is deemed a hate crime; and

WHEREAS, On January 30, 2021, 84-year-old Vicha Ratanapakdee, a nearly-blind and gentle elderly Thai man, died from injuries resulting from an attack while he was walking in the City of San Francisco, in what is deemed as a hate crime; and

WHEREAS, About 31 percent of Asian Americans report having been subject to discrimination since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a Pew Research Center report; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans in the State of California are increasingly concerned about their safety and well-being, given the rise of hate crimes and other racially motivated attacks; and

WHEREAS, In 2020, the California State Legislature’s API Legislative Caucus made efforts toward defending immigrant and refugee communities, engaged with hundreds of people to discuss xenophobia, and spoke out against anti-API hate incidents and hate crimes, while confronting realities of a worldwide pandemic; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, That the Assembly denounces hate crimes, hateful rhetoric, and hateful acts against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and works to ensure that APIs feel safe and welcome, both during this COVID-19 pandemic and beyond; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the Governor, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

REVISIONS:

Heading—Line 3.