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SCR-17 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. (2021-2022)

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 17

CHAPTER 21

Relative to racial discrimination.

[Filed with Secretary of State April 30, 2021.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 17, Leyva. International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

This measure would recognize March 21, 2021, as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Fiscal Committee: no

WHEREAS, The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on the day the police in Sharpeville, South Africa, opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against apartheid in 1960; and

WHEREAS, In 1979, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a program of activities to be undertaken during the second half of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination; and

WHEREAS, On that occasion, the United Nations General Assembly decided that a week of solidarity with the peoples struggling against racism and racial discrimination, beginning on March 21st would be organized; and

WHEREAS, Racist acts have created dramatic physical, emotional, and mental harm in millions of residents of California through historical trauma; and

WHEREAS, This harm has contributed to racism, racial stress, racial microaggressions, psychological trauma, historical trauma, and internalized racism; and

WHEREAS, Communities of color are disproportionately impacted by social determinants of health, such as increased exposure to lead, poor air quality, lack of safe places to walk, bike, or run, and inadequate health education; and

WHEREAS, Race is a social construction with no biologic basis; and

WHEREAS, Racism is a social system with multiple dimensions, including individual racism, which is internalized or interpersonal, and systemic racism, which is institutional or structural, and is a system of structuring opportunity and assigning value based on the social interpretation of how one looks; and

WHEREAS, Systemic racism unfairly disadvantages some individuals and communities, unfairly advantages other individuals and communities, and depletes the strength of the whole society through the waste of human resources; and

WHEREAS, Racism causes persistent racial discrimination in housing, education, employment, transportation, and criminal justice, and an emerging body of research demonstrates that racism is a social determinant of health; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature recognizes March 21, 2021, as the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature declares racism a public health crisis and will actively participate in the dismantling of racism; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.