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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

CONDEMNING THE SURGING VIOLENCE, XENOPHOBIA, AND INTOLERANCE
AGAINST ASIAN AMERICANS

Introduced By: Senators Cano, Murray, Quezada, Kallman, Miller, Mack, DiMario, and
Mendes

Date Introduced: March 23, 2021

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Historically, the United States as a whole has discriminated and restricted
2 our Asian American population through the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the
3 internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, and the formation of the “Asiatic-Barred
4 Zone” in the Immigration Act of 1917; and

5 WHEREAS, Since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, racial animus and crimes
6 targeting Asian Americans have risen dramatically, exemplified by the use of the racist reference
7 to Covid-19 as the “China virus” despite the World Health Organization’s guidelines in disease
8 naming; and

9 WHEREAS, Stop AAPI Hate, a coalition that tracks incidents of violence and harassment
10 against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States, reported nearly 3,800
11 instances of discrimination against Asians in the past year, including 503 incidents in 2021,
12 compared with roughly 100 incidents annually in previous years; and

13 WHEREAS, In addition to this significant increase in incidents of violence and
14 harassment, Asian-owned businesses have seen a dramatic decline in revenue and patronage; and

15 WHEREAS, Most recently, eight innocent people were shot in three spas in the Atlanta
16 area of State of Georgia, with six of the eight victims being Asian American women, which raises
17 the fear that they were targeted due to their race. No provocation led to these attacks; and

18 WHEREAS, Rhode Island has a vibrant, productive and contributing Asian American
19 community numbering more than 37,000, the fifth largest ethnic group in the State; and

1 WHEREAS, Rhode Island was founded on the belief and fully embraces diversity by
2 supporting a just and inclusive society; and

3 WHEREAS, All Rhode Islanders can play a role in establishing a safe and welcoming
4 community by intervening and reporting instances of hate and discrimination. Reporting these
5 incidents is critical to holding perpetrators accountable and supporting our vibrant Asian
6 American communities; now, therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby strongly condemns
8 these acts of white supremacy, hatred, racism, and violence against Asians Americans and
9 moreover urges all Rhode Islanders to speak out against all forms of discrimination, harassment,
10 and violence directed at Asian Americans; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
12 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Rhode Island Association of Chinese
13 Americans, the South Asian Student Organization at the University of Rhode Island, the Brown
14 University Korean-American Student Association, the Center for Southeast Asians, the Filipino-
15 American Association of New Port County, Inc., H.O.P.E Foundation International, the India
16 Association of Rhode Island, the Alliance of Rhode Island Southeast Asians for Education
17 (ARISE), and Providence Youth Student Movement for Justice & Love (PrYSM).

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