

SENATE RESOLUTION

8610

By Senators Dhingra, Billig, Braun, Brown, Carlyle, Cleveland, Conway, Darneille, Das, Dozier, Ericksen, Fortunato, Frockt, Gildon, Hasegawa, Hawkins, Hobbs, Holy, Honeyford, Hunt, Keiser, King, Kuderer, Lias, Lovelett, McCune, Mullet, Muzzall, Nguyen, Nobles, Padden, Pedersen, Randall, Rivers, Robinson, Rolfes, Saldaña, Salomon, Schoesler, Sheldon, Short, Stanford, Van De Wege, Wagoner, Warnick, Wellman, Wilson, C., Wilson, J., and Wilson, L.

1       WHEREAS, The pandemic saw a large rise in violence and animus  
2 targeting Asian American people across Washington and across this  
3 country; and

4       WHEREAS, It is clear that this violence has been founded on anti-  
5 Asian xenophobia and specifically targeted towards Asian and Pacific  
6 Islander individuals because of their race, affiliation, or  
7 appearance; and

8       WHEREAS, There have been 3,800 instances of reported hate  
9 incidents against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, AAPI, people  
10 across the country within the last year, a 150 percent increase and a  
11 trend which is reflected in our own state; and

12       WHEREAS, We recognize Noriko Nasu, a Japanese American high  
13 school teacher who is still recovering from an attack in the  
14 Chinatown International District during which an assailant used a  
15 rock to render her unconscious, fracture her nose, and break her  
16 teeth; and

17       WHEREAS, We recognize the 25 year old Asian American woman in  
18 Seattle who was pushed and told Asian people "need to be put in their  
19 place," and the Asian American couple who were threatened with an  
20 airsoft gun and told to "Go back to [their] country"; and

21       WHEREAS, We recognize William Barreto, a Filipino Chinese  
22 American, who recently experienced a stranger spitting in his face  
23 while being told the pandemic is "his fault"; and

1       WHEREAS, We recognize the numerous targeted vandalisms of Asian  
2 American homes, businesses, and places of worship—places where people  
3 are meant to feel safe and welcomed; and

4       WHEREAS, We understand that many members of the Asian American  
5 community have expressed feeling so unsafe in their communities that  
6 they feel the need to be accompanied in public so as to avoid assault  
7 or threat; and

8       WHEREAS, We acknowledge the ongoing grief and fear of the AAPI  
9 community as they grapple with these continued acts of hate and  
10 confront the fact that they are rooted in a long, detailed past of  
11 violent and discriminatory practices against people of Asian descent;  
12 and

13       WHEREAS, When we, as a state, acknowledge how we arrived at this  
14 painful moment, we must include Washington's significant, documented  
15 history of segregating Asian Americans from our cities and  
16 communities; and

17       WHEREAS, We must remember the history of brutal assaults on Asian  
18 Americans and abhorrent policies instituted against them in  
19 Washington, such as the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the 1885 Squak  
20 Valley attack on Chinese laborers, the Seattle riots of 1886 which  
21 lead to the expulsion of 350 Chinese residents from Seattle, the 1886  
22 Washington constitutional provision which barred Asian immigrants  
23 from applying for citizenship or owning property, the internment of  
24 Japanese Americans during the Second World War, and the Wah Mee  
25 Massacre of 1983 that claimed 13 Asian American lives; and

26       WHEREAS, Today, Washington is home to over 870,000 members of the  
27 AAPI community; and

28       WHEREAS, In spite of this traumatic history, the AAPI community  
29 has contributed invaluable accomplishments to the state of  
30 Washington; and

31       WHEREAS, In 1962, Wing Luke was the first Asian American to hold  
32 elected office in Washington state, with many following after him,  
33 including Governor Gary Locke and some of the members of this body  
34 today; and

35       WHEREAS, Washington's AAPI community is an integral part of our  
36 state, comprising accomplished individuals of all trades and talents,  
37 as evinced by our education system, art scene, thriving international  
38 districts, local businesses, and vibrant festivals; and

1       WHEREAS, Nobody who calls Washington home should live in fear  
2 because of who they are, how they are perceived, or what part of the  
3 world they or their families came from;

4       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate  
5 stand in solidarity with the AAPI community against the acts of  
6 violence, hate speech, and displays of intolerance that they have  
7 experienced as a result of rampant anti-AAPI rhetoric; and

8       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Washington State Senate honor,  
9 respect, and value the contributions of our AAPI residents, seek to  
10 reduce the risk of harm or threat, stand in support of our  
11 communities as they heal, and express compassion and kindness for our  
12 residents, and to protect their right to justice.

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