

House Resolution 566

By: Representatives Park of the 101st, Nguyen of the 89th, Lim of the 99th, Cannon of the 58th, Shannon of the 84th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Condemning racism and discrimination against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Asian American and Pacific Islander community is a diverse population
4 composed of more than 45 distinct ethnicities with more than 100 dialects; and

5 WHEREAS, the 23 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders living in the United States
6 account for 7 percent of the nation's population; and

7 WHEREAS, there are approximately 2 million Asian American and Pacific Islander owned
8 businesses that generate over \$700 billion in annual revenue and employ nearly 4.5 million
9 workers; and

10 WHEREAS, more than 2 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are working on the
11 front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic as health care professionals; law enforcement
12 officials; first responders; and workers in the transportation, grocery, and service industries;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, the use of racist terminology and rhetoric related to COVID-19, such as the
15 "Chinese Virus," "Wuhan Virus," and "Kung-flu," have perpetuated hatred and
16 discrimination against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; and

17 WHEREAS, on February 27, 2020, the Secretary of Health and Human Services stated that
18 "ethnicity is not what causes the novel coronavirus" and that it is inappropriate and
19 inaccurate to call COVID-19 the "Chinese Virus"; and

20 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recognize that naming
21 COVID-19 by its geographic location or linking it to a specific ethnicity perpetuates stigma;
22 on March 10, 2020, Dr. Robert Redfield, the director of the CDC, testified that use of the
23 term "Chinese coronavirus" is wrong and inappropriate; and

24 WHEREAS, despite these remarks, the continued use of racist rhetoric has resulted in Asian
25 Americans being harassed, assaulted, and scapegoated for the COVID-19 pandemic; and

26 WHEREAS, from March 19, 2020, to February 28, 2021, the STOP AAPI HATE reporting
27 center collected 3,795 incidents of attacks against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders,
28 including acts of physical and verbal harassment, physical assault, vandalism, and
29 discrimination in the workplace, among other forms of xenophobic discrimination; and

30 WHEREAS, this discrimination has led to acts of violence directly perpetrated against Asian
31 Americans and Pacific Islanders, including members of a Chinese American family with
32 children aged two and six who were stabbed while grocery shopping in Midland, Texas; an
33 Asian woman wearing a face mask who was kicked and punched in a New York City subway
34 station; and Asian American owners of a Japanese restaurant in San Francisco and a Chinese
35 restaurant in Seattle that suffered vandalism, broken windows, and graffiti; and

36 WHEREAS, in Georgia, 80 percent of all hate incidents involved verbal harassment or
37 shunning, and nearly 20 percent of discrimination against AAPIs in Georgia involved
38 physical assault, 40 percent of which took place at private businesses with women
39 experiencing hate at three times the rate of men in Georgia; and

40 WHEREAS, xenophobia in America is not new, and the recent surge in discrimination and
41 violence against Asian Americans is the most recent manifestation of a longer history of
42 anti-Asian racism in the United States that includes the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882,
43 which was the first law in the United States to bar immigration on the basis of race, as well
44 as the forced internment of nearly 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II; and

45 WHEREAS, to avoid repeating the mistakes of our past, every effort should be made to
46 condemn and denounce racist rhetoric that has led to acts of violence against Asian
47 Americans and Pacific Islanders because of their race, ethnicity, or national origin.

48 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
49 the members of this body condemn racism and discrimination against Asian Americans and
50 Pacific Islanders.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
52 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
53 public and the press.