

SENATE RESOLUTION

8610

By Senator Dhingra

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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