

As Introduced

**134th General Assembly
Regular Session
2021-2022**

S. C. R. No. 5

**Senators Maharath, Thomas
Cosponsors: Senators Yuko, Craig, Sykes, Antonio**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To denounce all forms of stigmatization, racism, and 1
discrimination occurring as a result of the COVID-19 2
pandemic. 3

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING):

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease caused by the 4
SARS-CoV-2 virus that can easily spread from person to person 5
and may result in serious illness or death; and 6

WHEREAS, The World Health Organization (WHO) defines stigma 7
as the labeling, stereotyping, separation, loss of status, and 8
discrimination due to a person's negative affiliation with a 9
disease; and 10

WHEREAS, A collaborative stigma guide created by the WHO, 11
UNICEF, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red 12
Crescent Societies (IFRC) states that COVID-19 is associated 13
with a high level of stigma because (1) it is a new disease 14
surrounded by uncertainty, (2) people are often afraid of the 15
unknown, and (3) it is easy to project fear onto minority 16
groups; and 17

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 18
(CDC) reports that people of Asian descent are especially 19

vulnerable to stigmatization due to COVID-19, while emphasizing 20
that virus transmission is not connected to race or ethnicity; 21
and 22

WHEREAS, Other groups of people such as health care workers 23
or people who have traveled recently also may experience stigma; 24
and 25

WHEREAS, According to the CDC, stigma can result in social 26
avoidance or rejection; denial of health care, education, 27
housing, or employment; and physical violence; and 28

WHEREAS, According to the WHO, UNICEF, and the IFRC, stigma 29
can drive people to hide illness, prevent people from seeking 30
health care immediately, and discourage people from adopting 31
healthy behaviors; and 32

WHEREAS, These consequences of stigma can ultimately 33
exacerbate the spread of COVID-19; and 34

WHEREAS, The CDC, WHO, UNICEF, and IFRC all affirm that the 35
most effective way to combat stigma is for people to speak out 36
against it, especially people in positions of power and 37
influence; now therefore be it 38

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 134th General 39
Assembly of the State of Ohio, have a responsibility to speak 40
out and advocate on behalf of people who are experiencing stigma 41
as a result of COVID-19; and be it further 42

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 134th General 43
Assembly of the State of Ohio, denounce all forms of 44
stigmatization, racism, and discrimination emanating from the 45
COVID-19 pandemic; and be it further 46

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly 47
authenticated copies of this resolution to the news media of 48
Ohio. 49