

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 64

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE DOLL.

5139H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

1 **WHEREAS**, since 2019, policymakers from more than fifty American municipalities
2 and three states have formally highlighted racism as a public health crisis; and

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4 **WHEREAS**, systemic racism and structures of racial discrimination create
5 generational poverty; perpetuate debilitating economic, educational, and health hardships;
6 and disproportionately affect people of color, causing the single most profound economic and
7 social challenge facing Missouri; and

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9 **WHEREAS**, this economic and social inequity has been exacerbated by the COVID-
10 19 pandemic; and

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12 **WHEREAS**, over twenty percent of Missouri's population is persons of color,
13 including persons who are Black, Indigenous, Hispanic, Asian, or Pacific Islander and
14 persons of more than one racial or ethnic background; and

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16 **WHEREAS**, Missouri is a diverse and changing state with shifting demographics;
17 and

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19 **WHEREAS**, racism has deep, harmful impacts; unfairly disadvantages Black,
20 Indigenous, and other persons of color (BIPOC); and has impeded solutions necessary to
21 achieve racial equity; and

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23 **WHEREAS**, health care providers have long noted the existence of racial and ethnic
24 disparities in our health care system, and these inequalities have led to a disproportionate
25 negative impact on BIPOC communities during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

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27 **WHEREAS**, the disproportionate, detrimental health impacts of COVID-19 on
28 BIPOC communities are indicated by the overrepresentation of BIPOC communities in
29 hospitalization rates and death rates; and

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31 **WHEREAS**, an example of this overrepresentation appears in St. Louis County,
32 where BIPOC individuals, as of January 12, 2021, made up approximately 41.5 percent of
33 COVID-19 deaths despite comprising only slightly over 30 percent of the county's
34 population; and

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36 **WHEREAS**, the chronic stress of racism affects the mental and physical health of the
37 members of BIPOC communities and, in particular, affects the mental and physical health of
38 Black Americans on a daily basis to a greater degree than other groups:

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40 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
41 Representatives of the One Hundred First General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the
42 Senate concurring therein, hereby:

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44 (1) State our commitment to the principle that all Missouri residents shall have equal
45 consideration and opportunity under the laws, policies, and practices of this state;

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47 (2) Declare that systemic racism and structures of racial discrimination constitute a
48 public health crisis that is magnified by the disproportionately high impact of COVID-19 on
49 communities of color and that affects the entire state of Missouri;

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51 (3) State our support of local, state, regional, and federal initiatives to understand,
52 address, and dismantle systemic racism and its impact on the delivery of human and social
53 services, economic development, and public safety; and

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55 (4) Request that federal funding be distributed equitably based upon the percentages
56 of members of the BIPOC communities to address issues that disproportionately impact
57 Black, Indigenous, and other persons of color in direct proportion to their disadvantages by
58 individual racial category.

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