

House Resolution No. 5503

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE SHAWAN.

5774H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

1 **WHEREAS**, Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt filed a lawsuit against the Chinese
2 government, the Communist Party of China, and other Chinese institutions to hold China
3 responsible for failing to contain the spread of COVID-19 and suppressing information about
4 COVID-19; and

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6 **WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused more than 170,000 deaths around the
7 world and 17,000 deaths in the United States; and

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9 **WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the lives of countless more people
10 as quarantines, social distancing practices, and stay-at-home orders have been implemented; and

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12 **WHEREAS**, efforts to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has already caused
13 an economic downturn, which may descend further into an economic recession; and

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15 **WHEREAS**, COVID-19 originated in the Hubei province of China; and

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17 **WHEREAS**, the Communist Party of China downplayed and denied facts about
18 COVID-19, including silencing the whistleblower Li Wenliang and denying early reports
19 regarding the severity and contagiousness of COVID-19; and

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21 **WHEREAS**, the Communist Party of China's deceitful acts caused other countries to
22 underestimate the threat posed by COVID-19 and caused those countries to prepare an
23 insufficient response to COVID-19; and

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25 **WHEREAS**, the Communist Party of China's deceitful acts have caused harmed to the
26 American people; and

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28 **WHEREAS**, United States Senator Josh Hawley announced the Justice for Victims of
29 COVID-19 Act; and

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31 **WHEREAS**, the Justice for Victims of COVID-19 Act would:

32 (1) Enable American citizens to sue the Chinese government by creating a private right
33 of action against the Chinese government for any reckless action that caused the spread of
34 COVID-19;

35 (2) Remove the Chinese government's defense of sovereign immunity;

36 (3) Allow courts to freeze Chinese government assets; and

37 (4) Establish the Justice for Victims of COVID-19 Task Force within the State
38 Department to investigate the Chinese Communist Party's decisions to distort and conceal
39 information about COVID-19 and to secure compensation from the Chinese government; and

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41 **WHEREAS**, the Chinese government holds over one trillion dollars of United States
42 Treasury debt; and

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44 **WHEREAS**, reducing the United States' debt to China could be a form of restitution for
45 the damage caused by COVID-19:

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47 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the members of the House of
48 Representatives, the One Hundredth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, hereby declare
49 our support for the Justice for Victims of COVID-19 Act and urge the members of Congress to
50 vote in favor of the act; and

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52 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the House of Representatives supports the attorney
53 general's lawsuit against the Chinese government; and

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55 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
56 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for Senator
57 Josh Hawley and Attorney General Eric Schmitt.

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