

**As Introduced**

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

**S. C. R. No. 5**

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

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**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