

# ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 239

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 22, 2021

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman NICHOLAS CHIARAVALLOTI**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI**

**District 33 (Hudson)**

**Assemblyman STERLEY S. STANLEY**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

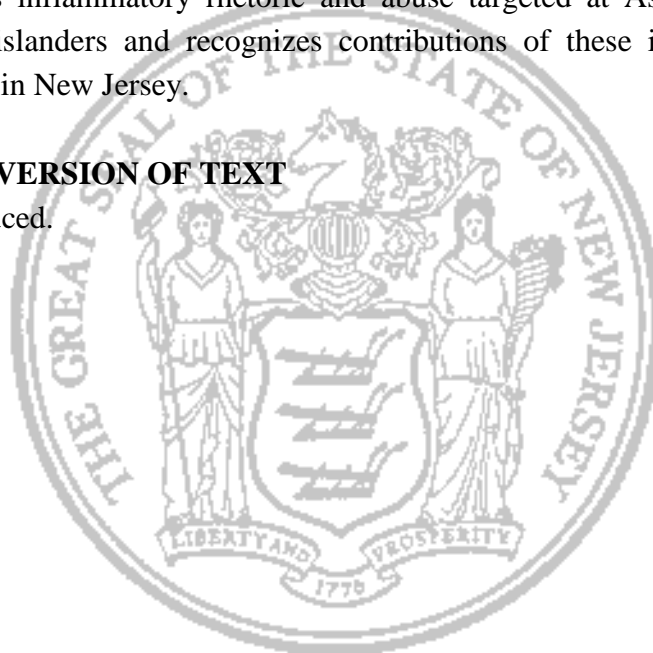
**Assemblywomen Vainieri Huttie, McKnight, Jasey, Assemblymen  
Zwicker, Johnson, Assemblywoman Murphy, Assemblymen  
Scharfenberger, Daniels, Armato, Mazzeo, Greenwald, Conaway,  
Assemblywomen Lampitt, DiMaso, Carter, Assemblymen Freiman and  
McKeon**

**SYNOPSIS**

Condemns inflammatory rhetoric and abuse targeted at Asian Americans and Pacific islanders and recognizes contributions of these individuals and communities in New Jersey.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/25/2021)**

1   **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** condemning abuse against individuals  
2       who are Asian American and Pacific Islander and recognizes the  
3       impacts made on this State and country by Asian American and  
4       Pacific Islander heritage.  
5  
6   **WHEREAS**, Asian American and Pacific Islanders are a significant and  
7       important community in New Jersey; and  
8   **WHEREAS**, The members of these communities have made significant  
9       contributions to the culture and economy of this State; and  
10   **WHEREAS**, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is  
11       celebrated each May and serves to recognize the contributions and  
12       influence of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the history,  
13       culture, and achievements of the United States; and  
14   **WHEREAS**, There are approximately 2 million Asian American owned  
15       businesses in the United States that generate over \$700 billion in  
16       annual revenue and employ nearly 4.5 million workers; and  
17   **WHEREAS**, Over 2 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are  
18       working across the United States on the frontlines of the COVID-19  
19       pandemic in fields such as health care, law enforcement, first  
20       responders, transportation, supermarkets, and other service  
21       industries; and  
22   **WHEREAS**, Twenty three million Asian Americans and Pacific  
23       Islanders account for seven-percent of the population of the United  
24       States; and  
25   **WHEREAS**, New Jersey has nearly 1 million Asian Americans and  
26       Pacific Islanders residing in the State, about 10 percent of the State  
27       population; and  
28   **WHEREAS**, The use of derogatory and offensive comments against  
29       Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders has increased during the  
30       COVID-19 pandemic; and  
31   **WHEREAS**, The World Health Organization and United States Centers  
32       for Disease Control and Prevention recognize that naming COVID-  
33       19 by its geographic location or linking the virus to a specific  
34       ethnicity may lead to violence against certain communities; and  
35   **WHEREAS**, Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has  
36       been an increase in reports of hate crimes and incidents against  
37       individuals who are Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; and  
38   **WHEREAS**, The advocacy group Stop AAPI Hate, which tracks  
39       incidents of hate against individuals who are Asian American and  
40       Pacific Islander, reports that it received more than 2,800 reports of  
41       hate incidents directed at members of the community nationwide  
42       from March to December 2020; and  
43   **WHEREAS**, In March 2020 alone, violence against these communities  
44       included: a woman wearing a mask being kicked and punched at a  
45       New York City subway station; two children and two adults being  
46       stabbed at a grocery store in Texas; a couple assaulted in  
47       Philadelphia; and a 16 year old boy attacked by bullies in  
48       California; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders should not live in  
2 fear of attack and discrimination and verbal and physical attacks  
3 against these communities are intolerable and should be condemned  
4 by all government officials and residents of this state; now,  
5 therefore,

6  
7 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New  
8 Jersey:

9  
10 1. This House condemns abuse and attacks against individuals  
11 who are Asian American and Pacific Islander and recognizes the  
12 significant contributions to this State and country by individuals of  
13 Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage.

14  
15 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,  
16 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the  
17 Governor of the State of New Jersey, the New Jersey Attorney  
18 General, Stop AAPI Hate, and Jersey Promise.

19  
20  
21 **STATEMENT**

22  
23 This resolution condemns any discrimination against Asian  
24 American and Pacific Islander communities and recognizes the  
25 significant contributions that these communities make on a daily  
26 basis to the state of New Jersey and the country.

27 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are one of the fastest  
28 growing racial groups in New Jersey and it is imperative to build  
29 understanding and bring disparate communities in New Jersey  
30 together. New Jerseyans of Asian and Pacific Islander descent  
31 represent roughly 10 percent of the State's total populations, the  
32 third highest proportion in the country. These communities  
33 contribute nearly half a million eligible voters to the State, own  
34 roughly 81,000 firms with combined revenue of roughly \$44  
35 billion, and buying power of roughly \$57 to \$75 billion.  
36 Additionally, in the United States, over 2 million Asian Americans  
37 and Pacific Islanders are working as essential workers on the  
38 frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic in fields such as health care,  
39 law enforcement, first responders, transportation, supermarkets, and  
40 other service industries.

41 In the past year, since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, there  
42 has been a surge in abuse against Asian American and Pacific  
43 Islander families and communities. Harassment has ranged from  
44 being spat on and verbally abused to incidents of physical assault.  
45 In New Jersey, Stop AAPI Hate reported nearly 50 incidents related  
46 to the COVID-19 pandemic of Asian American and Pacific Islander  
47 discrimination between March 19, 2020 and December 31, 2020.  
48 This is caused by the rhetoric that blames Asian people for the

1 spread of COVID-1 and continued inflammatory commentary may  
2 lead to more violence against the Asian American and Pacific  
3 Islander communities. The reported 50 incidents against individuals  
4 and communities marks an increase from the previous year. The  
5 United Nations has detailed “an alarming level” of racially  
6 motivated violence and other hate incidents against Asian  
7 Americans and Pacific Islanders. This cannot continue in the state  
8 of New Jersey and the country.

9 The State of New Jersey condemns and denounces acts of  
10 racism, violence, xenophobia, and intolerance against Asian  
11 American and Pacific Islander communities and individuals. The  
12 State additionally recognizes and promotes the contributions made  
13 by the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities  
14 throughout the State and country.