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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1—  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

AUGUST 5, 2020

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Read and Adopted

SUMMARY—Urges certain actions to address the public health crisis in Nevada. (BDR R-28)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Urging certain actions to address the public health crisis caused by systemic racism and greatly magnified by the COVID-19 pandemic in Nevada.

1 WHEREAS, As stated by Maya Angelou: “Prejudice is a burden  
2 that confuses the past, threatens the future and renders the present  
3 inaccessible;” and

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

9 WHEREAS, This economic and social challenge has been  
10 exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic;

11 WHEREAS, Nearly 49 percent of Nevada’s population is  
12 represented by persons of color, including persons who are Black,  
13 Indigenous, Hispanic, Asian or Pacific Islander and persons of more  
14 than one racial or ethnic background; and

15 WHEREAS, Nevada is a growing and diverse state with  
16 continually shifting demographics; and

17 WHEREAS, Racism has deep, harmful impacts and unfairly  
18 disadvantages Black, Indigenous and other persons of color  
19 (BIPOC) and has impeded solutions necessary to achieve racial  
20 parity; and

21 WHEREAS, Providers of health care have long noted the  
22 existence of racial and ethnic disparities in our health care system,



1 and these inequalities have led to a disproportionate negative impact  
2 on BIPOC communities during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

3 WHEREAS, The disproportionate, detrimental health impacts of  
4 COVID-19 on BIPOC communities are indicated by the  
5 overrepresentation of BIPOC communities in hospitalization rates  
6 and death rates; and

7 WHEREAS, For example, in Clark County as of August 3, 2020,  
8 according to the Southern Nevada Health District, Black persons  
9 constitute 14.3 percent of hospitalizations due to COVID-19 and  
10 15.1 percent of the deaths due to COVID-19, Hispanic persons  
11 constitute 35.5 percent of hospitalizations due to COVID-19 and  
12 26.4 percent of the deaths due to COVID-19, and Asian or Pacific  
13 Islander persons constitute 10.9 percent of the hospitalizations due  
14 to COVID-19 and 14.5 percent of the deaths due to COVID-19; and

15 WHEREAS, The chronic stress of racism affects the mental and  
16 physical health of the members of BIPOC communities and, in  
17 particular, affects the mental and physical health of Black  
18 Americans on a daily basis to a greater degree than other groups;  
19 now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE  
21 ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That all Nevada residents shall have  
22 equal consideration and opportunity under the laws, policies and  
23 practices of this State; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the members of the Nevada Legislature declare  
25 that systemic racism and structures of racial discrimination  
26 constitute a public health crisis which is magnified by the  
27 disproportionately high impact of COVID-19 on communities of  
28 color and which affects the entire State of Nevada; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That Nevada supports local, state, regional and  
30 federal initiatives to understand, address and dismantle systemic  
31 racism and its impact on the delivery of human and social services,  
32 economic development and public safety; and be it further

33 RESOLVED, That the members of the Nevada Legislature request  
34 that federal funding be distributed equitably based upon the  
35 percentages of members of the BIPOC communities to address  
36 issues that disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous and other  
37 persons of color in direct proportion to their disadvantages by  
38 individual racial category; and be it further

39 RESOLVED, That the members of the 32nd Special Session of  
40 the Nevada Legislature request that the 81st Regular Session of the  
41 Nevada Legislature incorporate into the regular business of the  
42 Nevada Legislature the subjects of systemic racism and structures of  
43 racial discrimination which constitute a public health crisis and  
44 which is magnified by the disproportionately high impact of  
45 COVID-19 on communities of color; and be it further



1 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and  
2 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Governor and the Director  
3 of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the 81st Regular  
4 Session of the Nevada Legislature.

5 And be it further

6 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon  
7 adoption.

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