A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To declare racism a public health crisis and to ask the Governor to establish a working group to promote racial equity in Ohio.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE SENATE CONCURRING):

WHEREAS, The American Medical Association states that racism contributes to health inequities in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Social determinants of health - the social and material factors that influence health outcomes - have a lifelong impact beginning even before birth; and

WHEREAS, The American Public Health Association (APHA) has expressed that racism is a driving force of the social determinants of health due to the resulting inequalities in a number of matters, including housing, education, and employment; and

Representatives Howse, Crawley

Cosponsors: Representatives Boyd, Sobecki, Kelly, Skindell, Hicks-Hudson, Brent, Leland, Sweeney, Russo, Upchurch, Lightbody, Weinstein, Brown, Miranda, West, Sykes, Denson, Lepore-Hagan, Boggs, Liston, Robinson, Patterson, Ingram, Smith, K., Blair, Cera, Clites, Sheehy, Crossman, O'Brien, Rogers, Miller, J.
WHEREAS, The APHA clarifies that racism is a social system with multiple dimensions: individual racism is internalized or interpersonal; systemic racism is institutional or structural, and is a system of structuring opportunity and assigning value based on the social interpretation of how one looks. This system unfairly disadvantages specific individuals and communities, while unfairly giving advantages to other individuals and communities, and saps the strength of the whole society through the waste of human resources; and

WHEREAS, Almost all of the four hundred years of black Americans' experience was under slavery and Jim Crow laws, which subjected black people to hardship and disadvantage in all areas of life; and

WHEREAS, The Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPIO) explains that negative repercussions of historical racism, including but not limited to discriminatory lending practices of the twentieth century known as "redlining," impact current outcomes regarding access to nutritious food, economic security, educational achievement, and infant mortality; and

WHEREAS, The American Anthropological Association asserts that genetic analyses show race to be a social construct not rooted in meaningful biological difference; and

WHEREAS, There is clear data that racism negatively impacts the lives of people of color in Ohio; and

WHEREAS, The American Psychological Association says that, because of poverty and discrimination, racial minority children are more likely to experience traumatic events than white children, and that childhood trauma has negative impacts on academic, behavioral, and physical health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Statistics compiled by the Centers for Disease Control show a national disparity between black and white infant
mortality rates, and the State of Ohio has one of the highest
black infant mortality rates; and

WHEREAS, Data collected by the Ohio Department of Health
reveal that maternal mortality is two and a half times greater
for black women in Ohio than white women and that black women
are significantly more likely to experience severe maternal
morbidity, which includes unexpected outcomes of pregnancy,
labor, or delivery that result in significant short- or long-
term consequences to a woman's health; and

WHEREAS, The Urban Institute reports that fifty-six per
cent of youth incarcerated in Ohio are black, despite
representing only sixteen per cent of people in Ohio under the
age of eighteen; and

WHEREAS, The Ohio Poverty Report published by the Ohio
Development Services Agency shows that the poverty rate for
black Ohioans is more than twice the poverty rate for white
Ohioans, and the median income for black households is only
sixty per cent of the statewide median; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Department of Health data indicate that black
Ohioans have higher mortality rates for heart disease, stroke,
diabetes, and cancer compared to other racial groups; and

WHEREAS, The HPIO reports that life expectancy for black
Ohioans is almost four years below the life expectancy for
Ohioans as a whole; and

WHEREAS, The APHA has identified law enforcement violence
as a public health issue that disproportionately affects
marginalized groups, including people of color, impacting both
physical and mental health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, The impact of racism on public health deserves
action from all levels of government; and
WHEREAS, The General Assembly supports the establishment of a working group to address these issues and to: create a publicly accessible glossary of terms and definitions concerning racism and health equity; promote community engagement and provide tools for government agencies to engage actively and authentically with communities of color; continue to work to build alliances with organizations that have a legacy and track record of confronting racism; encourage community partners and stakeholders in the education, employment, housing, and criminal justice and safety arenas to recognize racism as a public health crisis and take appropriate action; continue to promote racially equitable economic and workforce development in Ohio; continue to promote racially equitable hiring and promotion of all employees, including state employees; provide training to all elected officials, staff, funders, and grantees on workplace biases and how to mitigate them; promote and encourage all policies that prioritize the health of people of color; support local, state, regional, and federal initiatives that advance efforts to dismantle systematic racism and mitigate exposure to adverse childhood experiences and trauma; incorporate educational efforts to address and dismantle racism and to expand understanding of racism and how racism affects individual and population health; and secure adequate resources to successfully accomplish the aforementioned activities; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 133rd General Assembly of the State of Ohio, declare racism to be a public health crisis affecting our entire state; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 133rd General Assembly of the State of Ohio, ask the Governor to establish a working group to promote racial equity throughout this state; and be it further
RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 133rd General Assembly of the State of Ohio, are committed to reviewing all portions of the Revised Code with a racial equity lens; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 133rd General Assembly of the State of Ohio, are committed to conducting all human resource, vendor selection, and grant management activities with a racial equity lens, including reviewing all internal policies and practices such as hiring, promotion, leadership appointments, and funding; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the Governor and news media of Ohio.