

**As Introduced**

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

**H. C. R. No. 6**

**Representatives Howse, Crawley**

**Cosponsors: Representatives West, Denson, Boyd, Brown, Leland, Sykes, Lightbody,  
Brent, Skindell, Boggs, Hicks-Hudson, Smith, K., Sweeney, Miller, A., Miller, J.,  
Ingram, Weinstein, Upchurch, O'Brien, Galonski, Crossman, Sobecki, Kelly, Lepore-  
Hagan, Miranda, Jarrells, Smith, M., Sheehy, Robinson, Blackshear, Russo, Liston**

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**A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

To declare racism a public health crisis and to ask the 1  
Governor to establish a working group to promote racial 2  
equity in Ohio. 3

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

WHEREAS, The American Medical Association states that 4  
racism contributes to health inequities in the United States; 5  
and 6

WHEREAS, Social determinants of health - the social and 7  
material factors that influence health outcomes - have a 8  
lifelong impact beginning even before birth; and 9

WHEREAS, The American Public Health Association (APHA) has 10  
expressed that racism is a driving force of the social 11  
determinants of health due to the resulting inequalities in a 12  
number of matters, including housing, education, and employment; 13  
and 14

WHEREAS, The APHA clarifies that racism is a social system 15

with multiple dimensions: individual racism is internalized or 16  
interpersonal; systemic racism is institutional or structural, 17  
and is a system of structuring opportunity and assigning value 18  
based on the social interpretation of how one looks. This system 19  
unfairly disadvantages specific individuals and communities, 20  
while unfairly giving advantages to other individuals and 21  
communities, and saps the strength of the whole society through 22  
the waste of human resources; and 23

WHEREAS, Almost all of the four hundred years of Black 24  
Americans' experience was under slavery and Jim Crow laws, which 25  
subjected Black people to hardship and disadvantage in all areas 26  
of life; and 27

WHEREAS, The Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPIO) 28  
explains that negative repercussions of historical racism, 29  
including but not limited to discriminatory lending practices of 30  
the twentieth century known as "redlining," impact current 31  
outcomes regarding access to nutritious food, economic security, 32  
educational achievement, and infant mortality; and 33

WHEREAS, The American Anthropological Association asserts 34  
that genetic analyses show race to be a social construct not 35  
rooted in meaningful biological difference; and 36

WHEREAS, There is clear data that racism negatively impacts 37  
the lives of people of color in Ohio; and 38

WHEREAS, The American Psychological Association says that, 39  
because of poverty and discrimination, racial minority children 40  
are more likely to experience traumatic events than white 41  
children, and that childhood trauma has negative impacts on 42  
academic, behavioral, and physical health outcomes; and 43

WHEREAS, Statistics compiled by the Centers for Disease 44  
Control show a national disparity between Black and white infant 45  
mortality rates, and the State of Ohio has one of the highest 46

Black infant mortality rates; and 47

WHEREAS, Data collected by the Ohio Department of Health 48  
reveal that maternal mortality is two and a half times greater 49  
for Black women in Ohio than white women and that Black women 50  
are significantly more likely to experience severe maternal 51  
morbidity, which includes unexpected outcomes of pregnancy, 52  
labor, or delivery that result in significant short- or long- 53  
term consequences to a woman's health; and 54

WHEREAS, The Urban Institute reports that fifty-six per 55  
cent of youth incarcerated in Ohio are Black, despite 56  
representing only sixteen per cent of people in Ohio under the 57  
age of eighteen; and 58

WHEREAS, The Ohio Poverty Report published by the Ohio 59  
Development Services Agency shows that the poverty rate for 60  
Black Ohioans is more than twice the poverty rate for white 61  
Ohioans, and the median income for Black households is only 62  
sixty per cent of the statewide median; and 63

WHEREAS, Ohio Department of Health data indicate that Black 64  
Ohioans have higher mortality rates for heart disease, stroke, 65  
diabetes, and cancer compared to other racial groups; and 66

WHEREAS, The HPIO reports that life expectancy for Black 67  
Ohioans is almost four years below the life expectancy for 68  
Ohioans as a whole; and 69

WHEREAS, The APHA has identified law enforcement violence 70  
as a public health issue that disproportionately affects 71  
marginalized groups, including people of color, impacting both 72  
physical and mental health outcomes; and 73

WHEREAS, The impact of racism on public health deserves 74  
action from all levels of government; and 75

WHEREAS, The General Assembly supports the establishment of 76

a working group to address these issues and to: create a 77  
publicly accessible glossary of terms and definitions concerning 78  
racism and health equity; promote community engagement and 79  
provide tools for government agencies to engage actively and 80  
authentically with communities of color; continue to work to 81  
build alliances with organizations that have a legacy and track 82  
record of confronting racism; encourage community partners and 83  
stakeholders in the education, employment, housing, and criminal 84  
justice and safety arenas to recognize racism as a public health 85  
crisis and take appropriate action; continue to promote racially 86  
equitable economic and workforce development in Ohio; continue 87  
to promote racially equitable hiring and promotion of all 88  
employees including state employees; provide training to all 89  
elected officials, staff, funders, and grantees on workplace 90  
biases and how to mitigate them; promote and encourage all 91  
policies that prioritize the health of people of color; support 92  
local, state, regional, and federal initiatives that advance 93  
efforts to dismantle systematic racism and mitigate exposure to 94  
adverse childhood experiences and trauma; incorporate 95  
educational efforts to address and dismantle racism and to 96  
expand understanding of racism and how racism affects individual 97  
and population health; and secure adequate resources to 98  
successfully accomplish the aforementioned activities; now 99  
therefore be it 100

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 134th General 101  
Assembly of the State of Ohio, declare racism to be a public 102  
health crisis affecting our entire state; and be it further 103

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 134th General 104  
Assembly of the State of Ohio, ask the Governor to establish a 105  
working group to promote racial equity throughout this state; 106  
and be it further 107

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 134th General 108

Assembly of the State of Ohio, are committed to reviewing all 109  
portions of the Revised Code with a racial equity lens; and be 110  
it further 111

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 134th General 112  
Assembly of the State of Ohio, are committed to conducting all 113  
human resource, vendor selection, and grant management 114  
activities with a racial equity lens, including reviewing all 115  
internal policies and practices such as hiring, promotion, 116  
leadership appointments, and funding; and be it further 117

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House transmit duly 118  
authenticated copies of this resolution to the Governor and news 119  
media of Ohio. 120