A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To denounce all forms of stigmatization, racism, and discrimination occurring as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus that can easily spread from person to person and may result in serious illness or death; and

WHEREAS, The World Health Organization (WHO) defines stigma as the labeling, stereotyping, separation, loss of status, and discrimination due to a person's negative affiliation with a disease; and

WHEREAS, A collaborative stigma guide created by the WHO, UNICEF, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) states that COVID-19 is associated with a high level of stigma because (1) it is a new disease surrounded by uncertainty, (2) people are often afraid of the unknown, and (3) it is easy to project fear onto minority groups; and
WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that people of Asian descent are especially vulnerable to stigmatization due to COVID-19, while emphasizing that virus transmission is not connected to race or ethnicity;

and

WHEREAS, Other groups of people such as health care workers or people who have traveled recently also may experience stigma;

and

WHEREAS, According to the CDC, stigma can result in social avoidance or rejection; denial of health care, education, housing, or employment; and physical violence; and

WHEREAS, According to the WHO, UNICEF, and the IFRC, stigma can drive people to hide illness, prevent people from seeking health care immediately, and discourage people from adopting healthy behaviors; and

WHEREAS, These consequences of stigma can ultimately exacerbate the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, The CDC, WHO, UNICEF, and IFRC all affirm that the most effective way to combat stigma is for people to speak out against it, especially people in positions of power and influence; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 134th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, have a responsibility to speak out and advocate on behalf of people who are experiencing stigma as a result of COVID-19; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 134th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, denounce all forms of stigmatization, racism, and discrimination emanating from the COVID-19 pandemic; and be it further

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