

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.25

Reps. Cynthia Johnson, Love, Rabhi, Jones, Brenda Carter, Brixie, Hood, Bolden, Stone, Manoogian, Hoadley, Wittenberg, Pohutsky, Ellison, Koleszar, Gay-Dagnogo, Sowerby, Tate, Lasinski, Tyrone Carter, Pagan, Peterson, Garrett, Hammoud and Anthony offered the following concurrent resolution:

1 A concurrent resolution to declare that racism is a public
2 health crisis in the state of Michigan and commit the Legislature
3 to action and collaboration with the Governor to promote racial
4 equity and justice throughout the entire state of Michigan.

5 Whereas, Racism is rooted in the foundations of the United
6 States. From the time chattel slavery began in the 1600s, to the
7 Jim Crow era, to the mass incarceration of Black citizens, racism
8 has remained an endemic presence in American society. While the
9 manifestation of prejudice has undergone structural changes over
10 time, the underlying problem remains. People of color have been



1 disadvantaged and subjected to hardships and outright brutality
2 since the founding of our nation; and

3 Whereas, The COVID-19 Pandemic has highlighted the stark
4 racial injustices that are still present in American society. Black
5 patients across the nation are dying in larger-than-expected,
6 record numbers, and COVID-19 is killing Black people at 2.4 times
7 the rate of White people. In Michigan, Black people make up less
8 than 14 percent of the population, yet they account for 40 percent
9 of the COVID-19 deaths in the state; and

10 Whereas, Black people are disproportionately suffering in part
11 due to long standing, unaddressed health disparities, as well as
12 systematic racism and other socioeconomic inequities. The Black
13 community experiences disproportionately higher rates of
14 homelessness, incarceration, and economic hardships, which
15 exacerbate existing health issues; and

16 Whereas, Michigan's racist history has contributed to the
17 current health disparities that Black Michigan residents
18 experience. Discriminatory lending practices in the 20th century,
19 known as redlining, created segregated communities in Michigan.
20 Black communities were limited to areas with restricted access to
21 healthy foods, clean water, and other essential resources, leading
22 to a variety of other health issues, including reduced life
23 expectancy, higher rates of infant mortality, and higher rates of
24 lead poisoning. In addition, Michigan institutions have
25 demonstrated a disregard for Black lives, as was made evident by
26 the Flint water crisis; and

27 Whereas, Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Lieutenant Governor Garlin
28 Gilchrist, and Michigan's Chief Medical Executive Dr. Joneigh
29 Khaldun have all publicly condemned the racism embedded in every



1 fabric of our culture, voiced support for peaceful protests to
 2 bring issues of racism and bigotry to the forefront, and recognized
 3 that racial inequities are directly linked to poor health outcomes
 4 in Black Americans; and

5 Whereas, Governor Whitmer signed Executive Order 2020-55 on
 6 April 20,2020, which established the Michigan Coronavirus Task
 7 Force on Racial Disparities to examine factors that contribute to
 8 racial inequities and make policy recommendations on how to
 9 meaningfully address them; and

10 Whereas, The privileges that other Americans experience
 11 inhibit them from fully understanding how racism impacts citizens
 12 of color throughout the country, including here in Michigan. Tasks
 13 such as driving, walking and simply breathing should not result in
 14 citizens of color living in constant fear of being harassed,
 15 arrested, shot, or killed as a result of racist policing; now,
 16 therefore, be it

17 Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate
 18 concurring), That we declare that racism is a public health crisis
 19 in the state of Michigan and we commit to working collaboratively
 20 with the Governor and every sector of society to develop an ongoing
 21 strategy to address, fund, and support solutions that strategically
 22 reduce the long-term impact that racism has on the quality of life
 23 and health for citizens of color in the state of Michigan; and be
 24 it further

25 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
 26 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, the Chief Medical Executive for the
 27 Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and the Director
 28 of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

