

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5—SENATOR SPEARMAN

MARCH 15, 2021

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Urges certain actions to address the public health crisis in Nevada. (BDR R-966)

~

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Providers of health care have long noted the existence of racial and ethnic disparities in our health care system, and these inequalities have led to a disproportionate negative impact on BIPOC communities during the COVID-19 pandemic; and



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

5 WHEREAS, For example, in Clark County as of March 4, 2021,
6 according to the Southern Nevada Health District, Black persons
7 constitute 12.5 percent of hospitalizations due to COVID-19 and
8 11.6 percent of deaths due to COVID-19, Hispanic persons
9 constitute 31.7 percent of hospitalizations due to COVID-19 and
10 27.9 percent of deaths due to COVID-19 and Asian or Pacific
11 Islander persons constitute 11.1 percent of hospitalizations due to
12 COVID-19 and 13.6 percent of deaths due to COVID-19; and

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

18 WHEREAS, The members of the 32nd Special Session of the
19 Nevada Legislature adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1,
20 which declared that “systemic racism and structures of racial
21 discrimination constitute a public health crisis which is magnified
22 by the disproportionately high impact of COVID-19 on
23 communities of color and which affects the entire State of Nevada”;
24 now, therefore, be it

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

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

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

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

44 RESOLVED, That the members of the 81st Session of the Nevada
45 Legislature affirm the commitment to incorporate into the regular



* S C R 5 *

1 business of the Nevada Legislature the subjects of systemic racism
2 and structures of racial discrimination which constitute a public
3 health crisis and which is magnified by the disproportionately high
4 impact of COVID-19 on communities of color; and be it further
5 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon
6 adoption.

