

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5—Senator Spearman

FILE NUMBER.....

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That the members of the 81st Session of the Nevada Legislature affirm the commitment to incorporate into the regular business of the Nevada Legislature the subjects of systemic racism and structures of racial discrimination which constitute a public health crisis and which is magnified by the disproportionately high impact of COVID-19 on communities of color; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon adoption.

