

REFERENCE TITLE: racism; public health crisis

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-fifth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2022

SCR 1030

Introduced by
Senator Quezada

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING RACISM TO BE A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS AND AFFIRMING A COMMITMENT
TO END RACISM AND IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES IN COMMUNITIES OF COLOR.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Whereas, race is a social construction with no biological basis; and
2 Whereas, racism is a social system with multiple dimensions.
3 Individual racism is internalized or interpersonal, while systemic racism
4 is institutional and structures opportunity and assigns value based on the
5 social interpretation of how one looks that unfairly disadvantages some
6 individuals and communities, unfairly advantages other individuals and
7 communities and saps the strength of the whole society by wasting human
8 resources; and

9 Whereas, racism causes persistent racial discrimination in housing,
10 education, employment and criminal justice; and

11 Whereas, Phoenix Police Department records show that between 2010
12 and 2015, Black Arizonans accounted for a disproportionate share of
13 incidents where officers used hands, fists, choke holds or weapons during
14 encounters; and

15 Whereas, an emerging body of research demonstrates that racism is a
16 social determinant of health, and more than 100 studies have linked racism
17 to worse health outcomes; and

18 Whereas, communities of color are disproportionately impacted by
19 social determinants of health, such as increased exposure to environmental
20 contaminants, poor air quality, lack of safe places to walk, bike or run
21 and inadequate health education; and

22 Whereas, a wealth of medical research suggests that racism plays an
23 important role in the fact that African American women are more likely
24 than any other race to give birth to premature babies; and

25 Whereas, Arizona Department of Health Services data shows that the
26 infant mortality rate among African Americans in Arizona is significantly
27 higher than the national average; and

28 Whereas, immigration policies that sanction institutional practices
29 of discrimination, such as the ethno-racial profiling and mistreatment
30 sanctioned by Arizona law, are forms of structural racism and everyday
31 violence; and

32 Whereas, studies suggest that immigration laws that militarize
33 communities and lead to everyday violence exacerbate racial health
34 disparities; and

35 Whereas, the American Public Health Association launched a National
36 Campaign Against Racism; and

37 Whereas, this state's responsibilities to address racism include
38 reshaping our discourse and agenda so that we all actively engage in
39 racial justice work; and

40 Whereas, while there is no epidemiologic definition of "crisis," the
41 health impact of racism clearly rises to one proposed definition: "The
42 problem must affect large numbers of people, it must threaten health over
43 the long term and it must require the adoption of largescale solutions."

44 Therefore

1 Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of
2 Representatives concurring:

3 1. That the Members of the Legislature proclaim racism to be a
4 public health crisis affecting our entire society.

5 2. That the Members of the Legislature oppose efforts to prevent
6 the teaching of accurate history and the discussion of race in classrooms.

7 3. That the Members of the Legislature commit to working to create
8 equity and justice-oriented governance.

9 4. That the Members of the Legislature commit to developing a work
10 plan that includes educational efforts to address and dismantle racism,
11 expand state personnel's understanding of racism and how racism affects
12 individual and population health and provide tools to assist personnel to
13 engage actively and authentically with communities of color.

14 5. That the Members of the Legislature support policies that
15 improve health in communities of color and local, state and federal
16 initiatives that advance social justice.