



2021 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 8

February 18, 2021 - Introduced by Representatives STUBBS, DRAKE, SHELTON, HEBL, MILROY, ANDRACA, SNODGRASS, NEUBAUER, ORTIZ-VELEZ, S. RODRIGUEZ, CABRERA, SINICKI, GOYKE, CONLEY, HAYWOOD, CONSIDINE, SPREITZER, EMERSON, BILLINGS, VINING, BALDEH, SUBECK, ANDERSON, HONG, SHANKLAND, HESSELBEIN, BOWEN, L. MYERS, BROSTOFF and HINTZ, cosponsored by Senators JOHNSON, CARPENTER, WIRCH, L. TAYLOR, ROYS, BEWLEY, ERPENBACH and LARSON. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** proclaiming that racism and racial inequity constitute a health crisis
2 in Wisconsin.

3 Whereas, race is a social construct with no biological basis; and

4 Whereas, racism is a social system with multiple dimensions, including
5 individual racism, which is internalized or interpersonal, and systemic racism,
6 which is institutional or structural, and is a system of structuring opportunity and
7 assigning value based on the social interpretation of how one looks; and

8 Whereas, systemic racism unfairly disadvantages some individuals and
9 communities, unfairly advantages other individuals and communities, and depletes
10 the strength of the whole society through the waste of human resources; and

11 Whereas, racism causes persistent racial discrimination in housing, education,
12 employment, transportation, and criminal justice; and

13 Whereas, Black unemployment rates are consistently double or triple those of
14 white workers in Wisconsin regardless of overall economic conditions, and Black
15 median incomes lag far behind those of white households; and

1 Whereas, Wisconsin's racial disparity in high school graduation is the worst in
2 the nation; and

3 Whereas, Black or African-American people constitute less than 7 percent of
4 state residents but 29 percent of people in jail and 41 percent of people in prison; and

5 Whereas, Wisconsin's Black families are 5.3 times more likely than white
6 families to live in poverty; and

7 Whereas, of 44 states for which data was available, Wisconsin ranked 41st in
8 child well-being for Black children and showed the largest gap in well-being among
9 those states between Black children and white children; and

10 Whereas, in Wisconsin, Black people are 1.8 times more likely than white
11 people to go without health insurance; and

12 Whereas, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services determined that Black
13 people and Native Americans have the highest excess death rates at every stage in
14 the life course, and the infant mortality rate of non-Hispanic Black infants is the
15 highest in the nation; and

16 Whereas, the infant mortality rate for infants of non-Hispanic Black women is
17 the highest in the nation; and

18 Whereas, an emerging body of research demonstrates that racism is a social
19 determinant of health; and

20 Whereas, the promotion of healthy communities is directly related to the health
21 of individuals and encourages expanding public health support networks to decrease
22 racial disparities in health outcomes; and

23 Whereas, communities of color are disproportionately impacted by social
24 determinants of health, such as increased exposure to lead, poor air quality, lack of
25 safe places to walk, bike, or run, and inadequate health education; and

1 Whereas, the people of Wisconsin are committed to continuing to use a racial
2 equity and social justice lens and approach in our policies, procedures, and projects
3 in order to create a robustly anti-racist government and to dismantle institutional
4 structural racism that causes the many harms to our community and society,
5 including grave and long-term harm to individual and public health; now, therefore,
6 be it

7 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the legislature
8 acknowledges that racism is a public health crisis threatening the long-term
9 individual and population health of large numbers of people in society; and

10 ***Be it further resolved, That*** the legislature commits to its past, current, and
11 future efforts to confront, condemn, and dismantle racism, to inform public discourse
12 on racism, and to continue to implement equitable and anti-racist policies and
13 practices to create a justice- and equity-oriented country and society; and

14 ***Be it further resolved, That*** the legislature commits to continue to support
15 the health and racial equity work of the Department of Health Services, local
16 departments of health, and local departments, agencies, and organizations devoted
17 to promoting public health and racial equity.

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(END)