

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2025-4625, by Representative Zahn

1 WHEREAS, The Chinese were the first Asians to migrate in
2 significant numbers to Washington, fleeing conflicts such as the
3 Taiping Rebellion and the Opium War, with more than 3,000 Chinese
4 people living in the Washington Territory by 1880, playing a critical
5 role in the development of the territory; and

6 WHEREAS, Racial tension in the west came to a head in the 1880s
7 during an economic recession, leading to the passage of the federal
8 Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882, which restricted immigration, and the
9 tragedies of the Tacoma Riot of 1885 and the Seattle Riot of 1886, in
10 which hundreds of Chinese Americans were forcibly expelled from their
11 homes, with some losing their lives; and

12 WHEREAS, Chinese Americans in Washington faced continued
13 discrimination such as special taxes, prohibitions against marrying
14 whites, and owning land, which led to the Chinese American community
15 sharing resources, forming businesses, and using the judicial system
16 to defend their civil rights; and

17 WHEREAS, Washington state is now home to more than 190,000
18 Chinese Americans, making up nearly two percent of the total
19 population; and

20 WHEREAS, Chinese Americans have formed groups, associations, and
21 numerous Chinese churches, which preserve and celebrate Chinese
22 culture, heritage, and religion, and support new immigrants; and

1 WHEREAS, Chinese Americans in Washington have enriched our state
2 through their leadership and contributions in agriculture, business,
3 academia, government, and the arts;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State House
5 of Representatives acknowledge the tragedy of historical
6 discrimination against the Chinese American community and recognize
7 the important role Chinese Americans play in the civic, cultural, and
8 economic life of Washington State.

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