

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 27

## 101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE COLLINS.

2130H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

1           **WHEREAS**, the American Medical Association states that racism contributes to health  
2 inequities in the United States; and

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4           **WHEREAS**, social determinants of health, defined as the social and material factors that  
5 influence health outcomes, have a lifelong impact beginning even before birth; and

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7           **WHEREAS**, the American Public Health Association has declared racism a driving force  
8 of the social determinants of health due to the resulting inequalities in a number of matters,  
9 including housing, education, and employment; and

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11           **WHEREAS**, a past president of the American Public Health Association has defined  
12 racism as "a system of structuring opportunity and assigning value based on the social  
13 interpretation of how one looks . . . that unfairly disadvantages some individuals and  
14 communities, unfairly advantages other individuals and communities, and saps the strength of  
15 the whole society through the waste of human resources"; and

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17           **WHEREAS**, Black Americans have been subjected to two hundred fifty years of slavery,  
18 one hundred years of legalized segregation and racial terrorism, and decades of racist housing  
19 policy in which they were denied the opportunity to accumulate wealth through home ownership;  
20 and

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22           **WHEREAS**, this history of racial terrorism and racist policy impacts current outcomes  
23 regarding access to nutritious food, economic security, educational achievement, and infant  
24 mortality; and

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26           **WHEREAS**, the American Psychological Association notes that ethnic and racial  
27 minority children who live in low-income communities experience more stressful or traumatic  
28 events, which can lead to mental health difficulties later in life; and

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30           **WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has consistently  
31 documented a significant disparity between Black and White infant mortality rates; and

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33           **WHEREAS**, maternal mortality in Missouri is nearly three times greater for Black  
34 women than White women; and

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36           **WHEREAS**, significant racial disparities in life expectancy have also been documented  
37 in Missouri; and

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39           **WHEREAS**, the impact of racism on public health deserves action from all levels of  
40 government:

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42           **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of  
43 Representatives of the One Hundred First General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate  
44 concurring therein, hereby declare racism a public health crisis and urge the Governor to take  
45 action that will encourage racial equity in Missouri by working with groups such as Forward  
46 through Ferguson, the Deaconess Foundation, and the St. Louis Integrated Health Network; and

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48           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of  
49 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Governor  
50 Michael L. Parson.

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