

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 156

Senators Chang, Alexander, Bayer, Geiss, Moss, Polehanki, Santana and Wojno offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to commemorate June 23, 2022, as the 40th
2 anniversary of Vincent Chin's death.

3 Whereas, Vincent Chin was born in the Guangdong province of
4 China on May 18, 1955. In 1961, he was adopted from a Chinese
5 orphanage by Bing Hing Chin and Lily Chin; and

6 Whereas, Chin's father earned the ability for his wife to
7 immigrate to the United States from his service in the United
8 States Army during World War II; and

9 Whereas, Chin was raised in Highland Park, Michigan along
10 Woodward Avenue until 1971 when his family moved to Oak Park. He
11 graduated from Oak Park High School in 1973; and

1 Whereas, In 1982, Chin was employed as an industrial draftsman
2 by an automotive supplier, worked weekends as a waiter in Ferndale,
3 and was engaged to be married; and

4 Whereas, On June 19, 1982 in Highland Park, while celebrating
5 his upcoming nuptials, Chin was attacked because of his race; and

6 Whereas, At a time when Japanese auto companies were thriving
7 and the American auto industry was struggling, two former
8 autoworkers mistook Chin for being Japanese and verbally harassed
9 him, using racially motivated language; and

10 Whereas, Later that day, the same two men followed Chin to a
11 nearby fast food restaurant. They bludgeoned Chin with a baseball
12 bat until his skull cracked open; and

13 Whereas, Four days later on June 23 1982, Chin died at Henry
14 Ford Hospital at the age of 27; and

15 Whereas, The two killers were convicted of manslaughter,
16 sentenced to three years of probation, and fined \$3,000. Their
17 sentences were considered by many to be an injustice, considering
18 the severity of the crime; and

19 Whereas, Chin's attorneys brought federal charges regarding
20 the violation of Chin's civil rights and successfully settled a
21 civil case for unlawful death; and

22 Whereas, The hate crime and tragic killing of Vincent Chin
23 sparked a pan-Asian American movement in Detroit. Asian Americans
24 of all ethnic groups came together to address injustice; and

25 Whereas, In the wake of Chin's killing, American Citizens for
26 Justice (ACJ) was founded in Michigan. ACJ organized rallies and
27 events to advocate for equal justice for all; and

28 Whereas, 40 years after Chin's death, there are parallels
29 between the anti-Asian sentiment that existed in the 1980s and the

1 current, ongoing wave of anti-Asian hate incidents and
2 discrimination due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

3 Whereas, Asian Americans and their allies mark this 40th
4 anniversary as an important opportunity for continued advocacy for
5 equal justice and to stand against hate and discrimination; and

6 Whereas, We remember Vincent Chin and the legacy of the civil
7 rights activism that originated from his tragic death; now,
8 therefore, be it

9 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
10 body commemorate June 23, 2022, as the 40th anniversary of Vincent
11 Chin's death.