



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF H. 3115 “AN ACT ENSURING EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION IN THE COMMONWEALTH”

WHEREAS: Having accurate data is critical for policy makers and service providers to craft policies and advocate for resources that can address disparities and challenges faced by different communities; *and*

WHEREAS: Currently, state agencies are not required to collect disaggregated data on race and ethnicity, and demographic data often do not reflect the diversity and nuance within a racial group such as the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, which includes numerous ethnic groups that each have its own needs; *and*

WHEREAS: H. 3115, sponsored by Representative Tackey Chan, would require state agencies to collect and publicize data for major ethnic groups within the Asian, Pacific Islanders, Black or African American, Latino, White or Caucasian groups; *and*

WHEREAS: The bill clarifies that individuals are not required to fill out this information, and mandates that people cannot be denied services for not choosing to participate. Any personal information is kept confidential and protected by state and federal privacy laws; *and*

WHEREAS: Disaggregated data that specifies ethnic subgroups would allow us to better understand the different needs between ethnic groups, as the needs of our most underserved groups often vary greatly and are rendered invisible without disaggregated data; *and*

WHEREAS: Policy and decision makers will be able to identify specific needs and challenges faced by each ethnic subgroup and come up with appropriate solutions with disaggregated data, such as providing the right interpreters to address language access needs at our schools and hospitals, as well as advocating for funding for certain diseases and mental health-related issues that disproportionately affect certain populations; *and*

WHEREAS: With the rise of hate crimes against the AAPI community due to the pandemic, it is critical that we change policies that continue to render our minority communities invisible. This bill would be a meaningful step in creating better visibility, insight and understanding into the lived experiences of our diverse communities, which will allow government agencies and health and social service providers to better serve their populations; *and*

WHEREAS: With the City of Boston’s majority-minority status, it is critical to ensure equitable representation on all aspects of services received by our residents; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the Boston City Council supports the passage of H.3115, “An Act Ensuring Equitable Representation in the Commonwealth” in the Massachusetts State Legislature, and urges the State Legislature to promptly pass this legislation.