WHEREAS, Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt filed a lawsuit against the Chinese government, the Communist Party of China, and other Chinese institutions to hold China responsible for failing to contain the spread of COVID-19 and suppressing information about COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused more than 170,000 deaths around the world and 17,000 deaths in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the lives of countless more people as quarantines, social distancing practices, and stay-at-home orders have been implemented; and

WHEREAS, efforts to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has already caused an economic downturn, which may descend further into an economic recession; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 originated in the Hubei province of China; and

WHEREAS, the Communist Party of China downplayed and denied facts about COVID-19, including silencing the whistleblower Li Wenliang and denying early reports regarding the severity and contagiousness of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Communist Party of China's deceitful acts caused other countries to underestimated the threat posed by COVID-19 and caused those countries to prepare an insufficient response to COVID-19; and
WHEREAS, the Communist Party of China's deceitful acts have caused harm to the American people; and

WHEREAS, United States Senator Josh Hawley announced the Justice for Victims of COVID-19 Act; and

WHEREAS, the Justice for Victims of COVID-19 Act would:

1. Enable American citizens to sue the Chinese government by creating a private right of action against the Chinese government for any reckless action that caused the spread of COVID-19;

2. Remove the Chinese government's defense of sovereign immunity;

3. Allow courts to freeze Chinese government assets; and

4. Establish the Justice for Victims of COVID-19 Task Force within the State Department to investigate the Chinese Communist Party's decisions to distort and conceal information about COVID-19 and to secure compensation from the Chinese government; and

WHEREAS, the Chinese government holds over one trillion dollars of United States Treasury debt; and

WHEREAS, reducing the United States' debt to China could be a form of restitution for the damage caused by COVID-19:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the members of the House of Representatives, the One Hundredth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, hereby declare our support for the Justice for Victims of COVID-19 Act and urge the members of Congress to vote in favor of the act; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives supports the attorney general's lawsuit against the Chinese government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for Senator Josh Hawley and Attorney General Eric Schmitt.