Resolved by this Assembly:

WHEREAS, on February 11, 2020, the World Health Organization designated the respiratory virus "COVID-19" or coronavirus 2019, as a communicable respiratory disease; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, in response to the global pandemic of COVID-19 that was affecting multiple countries and states and had resulted in the spread of infections in Connecticut and surrounding states, Governor Ned Lamont declared a public health emergency and civil preparedness emergency throughout the state, pursuant to sections 19a-131a and 28-9 of the general statutes; and

WHEREAS, on multiple occasions since March 10, 2020, acting pursuant to the authority granted by sections 19a-131 and 28-9 of the general statutes and special acts 21-2, 21-4 and 21-5, and in response to
the continued need to respond adequately to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor renewed the declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies and issued new declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, the most recent of which will expire on February 15, 2022; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to said declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, the Governor issued certain executive orders to protect the public health and mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and several of those executive orders remain necessary to protect the public health and mitigate such harmful effects; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death and the World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has resulted in serious consequences for the residents of the state and the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has resulted in and continues to present increased risk of severe illness, complications, and death, particularly to those with chronic conditions; and

WHEREAS, the omicron variant of COVID-19 is highly contagious, more transmissible and spreads more quickly throughout the population than other COVID-19 variants and has caused COVID-19 infections to rapidly increase within the United States and Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, given the continued harmful impact of COVID-19, it is essential to the health, safety and welfare of Connecticut's citizens that there continue to be declared public health and civil preparedness emergencies to enable state agencies to access crucial federal funds under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 USC 5121 et seq., and the supplemental nutrition assistance program; and
WHEREAS, article third of the Constitution of the state vests in the Connecticut General Assembly broad police powers, including those necessary to protect public health and safety, together with the ability to take measures to prevent the introduction and spread of infectious and contagious diseases.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Connecticut General Assembly hereby declares that a public health emergency and a civil preparedness emergency continue to exist throughout the state through June 30, 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerks of the Senate and House of Representatives cause a copy of this resolution to be sent to Governor Ned Lamont, the Secretary of the State and each member of the Connecticut congressional delegation.