

Chairman Burke, Ranking Member Antonio, and Members of the Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee,

I am writing to you to voice my support for the Resolution put forth by the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis.

I am outraged that my fellow citizens continue to feel the scourge of racism in all aspects of their daily life. Our current systems are broken and not meeting the needs of the black community in our state.

The work to change these inherently racist systems needs to begin NOW. I believe the 16 points contained in this Resolution are a good first step in bringing the attention needed to the problem of systemic racism. I urge you all to support this Resolution today and work every day to develop policies to protect ALL Ohioans.

The citizens of Ohio and those representing us cannot show indifference or be silent about any form of racism. As our elected representatives we expect you to look inward and ask yourself what you can do to end racism in our state and then speak and act accordingly. Supporting this Resolution will tell us where you stand and will be remembered.

Again I urge you to support the Resolution declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis. Let's make Ohio a model to the nation and show the country that the great state of Ohio will take the lead in having the difficult discussions necessary to create real and meaningful change for black Americans.

Thank you for your time,
Lisa M. Naymik