

Thank you Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Ohio Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee. My name is Tim Pitts and I'm here to testify in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 17 (SCR 17) declaring that racism is a public health crisis.

As a young person in Columbus, I have witnessed first-hand the devastating effects of racism on family and friends, directly and indirectly.

I have been repeatedly assaulted because of my color, in both suburb and city, rural and urban environments. Some have come at the hands of organized groups and others from individuals. From a youngster in elementary school to an adult studying at college and more so as a Father, I have dealt with profound levels of anxiety and oftentimes, depression as a result of impending and perceived attacks. This internalization has led to many problematic encounters in public, most often based upon "expected" interactions.

Thank you to the committee and the sponsors of the resolution (Sen. Williams and Sen. Craig) for your time with respect to my testimony.

I am open for questions.