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Senate Health Committee
**Testimony on SCR14 – Declare Racism a Public Health Crisis/
Promote Racial Equality**
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Co-Chair, Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce
Government Affairs Committee
Chair of the United Way of Summit County Public Policy Committee
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Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Minority Member Antonio, and the Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee: I address the Committee as President and CEO of State and Federal Communications, a 27-year-old small business from Akron.

I am writing to expressing my support for SCR 41, which will declare racism a public health crisis and to ask Ohio Governor DeWine to establish a working group promoting racial equality in Ohio.

We try hard as business owners to create a place of work where all individuals are welcome and treated fair. The actions on Monday, May 25th where George Floyd was murdered needs to be the end of this type of treatment to any type of person and the serious beginning of *actually* doing something about racism, a public health crisis, in Ohio.

Whose responsibility is it to remedy the situation of the victim of prejudice? It is certainly not the victim's responsibility. Saint James says, "*We have to act.*" We must listen to the story of those victim's so we can fulfill the words of Saint James, *that we must act.* We do have the spirit, and this is the clearest opportunity.

I hope my grandchildren's grandchildren never have to deal with a pandemic...I also hope they no longer must address racism. We must be the generation to show we made a change. *And, we must do it now.*

Thank you.