To: Members of the Ohio Senate Health, Human Services, & Medicaid Committee

Fr: Monica Hueckel, Senior Director of Government Relations, Ohio State Medical Association

Da: June 8, 2020

Re: SCR 14

On behalf of the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA), the state's oldest and largest professional organization representing Ohio physicians, medical residents, and medical students, we stand in unified support of SCR 14 and efforts to address inequalities and concerns regarding race and public health in our state.

OSMA is dedicated to assuring that health care is fully inclusive and attainable, so that everyone has access to necessary medical services regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or any other defining characteristic. We support ongoing efforts by state leaders and the medical community to address racial disparities in health care and to eliminate the harmful public health effects that racism and discrimination have upon Ohioans and Americans throughout our nation.

We also have increased our educational efforts to raise awareness amongst Ohio's physicians of disparities in medical access and treatment in Ohio based on factors such as disability, race, ethnicity, geography, and other social and demographic concerns. There is plentiful evidence that such health inequalities persist in our communities, and the recent coronavirus pandemic has been a stark example which has shed even more light on health disparities tied to race. Throughout the U.S., including here in Ohio, we have seen a disproportionate impact of the virus on communities of color. As you may know, current OSMA President Dr. Anthony Armstrong is serving as a part of Governor DeWine's Minority Health Strike Force, assembled in April to develop recommendations for how the state should act in response to health disparities and COVID-19.

The OSMA appreciates the opportunity to continue to be a meaningful contributor to the policymaking process on these important public health issues. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.