



June 9, 2020

Chairman Dave Burke  
Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee  
Ohio Senate

Re: Statement of Support for SCR 14

Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the committee:

I am writing in support of SCR 14, a continuing resolution which would declare racism a public health crisis and drive additional policies aimed at creating racial equity in Ohio.

OhioHealth is a 12-hospital healthcare system that has served the community since 1891. We are a family of 35,000 associates, physicians and volunteers with over 50 ambulatory sites, hospice, home-health, medical equipment and other health services spanning a 47-county area throughout Ohio. We believe every patient in every community we serve deserves access to high-quality healthcare.

SCR 14 rightly recognizes that racism greatly impacts the health of our patients. People of color deserve communities free of systemic racism, and SCR 14 amplifies this vision. We recognize clearly the racial health disparities that exist in the communities we serve. And we recognize clearly that racism is a public health crisis. OhioHealth's mission is to improve the health of those we serve, and we believe that supporting SCR 14 furthers that mission.

OhioHealth recently adopted *Inclusion* as our fifth core value. We understand that diversity and inclusion are not a luxury for our organization or our communities but rather a necessity. We stand as active advocates for our associates, communities and patients in addressing racial inequities that feed this public health crisis.

I commend the Senate for leading on this issue and respectfully ask for the passage of SCR 14.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Morrison".

Karen J. Morrison  
Senior Vice President, External Affairs