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LSSnetworkofhope.org

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Dear Senators Craig and Williams,

Lutheran Social Services in Central Ohio would like to lend our support for the Ohio Senate Concurrent Resolution 14 declaring racism a national crisis. Research for more than two decades has evidenced that systemic racism creates a multitude of inequities for people of color. We strongly agree with your suggestion that Governor DeWine establish a working group to promote racial equity in Ohio.

Unequal access to health care, affordable housing and employment as well as food insecurity resulting from social segregation, immigration policy and intergenerational effects sustain a system that results in a significant wealth gap, higher incarceration rates, poorer health outcomes and decreased life expectancy for minorities. For example, in 2017 14% of Ohioans lived in poverty, of those 11.1% identified as white and 28.8% identified as black.

At LSS we see the consequences of racism as a systemic issue played out in the lives of individuals every day. Our food pantries, homeless and domestic violence shelters, and federally qualified health center serve a disproportionate number of racial and ethnic minority members. This is not a reflection of individual differences but of a societal structure that provides unequal opportunity and resources in communities of color.

To create social or systemic change, a problem must be named and factors that contribute to maintaining the problem identified. You have started that work through this resolution.

LSS stands ready to partner in this work and supports your vision for a more equitable community.

Rev. Larry A. Crowell, President and CEO
Lutheran Social Services

LSS FAITH MISSION
Homeless Shelter & Services

LSS FOOD PANTRIES
Hunger Relief & Family Services

LSS CHOICES
For Victims of Domestic Violence

**LSS FAITH MISSION
OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY**
Homeless Shelter & Services

LSS AFFORDABLE HOUSING
Senior Living

LSS DISASTER SERVICES
Ohio Disaster Network

LSS KENSINGTON PLACE
Senior Living Community

LSS THE GOOD SHEPHERD
Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation

LSS LUTHERAN VILLAGE
Assisted Living

LSS HOME HEALTH CARE
Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation



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