



Senate Concurrent Resolution 14 – Proponent Testimony
Ohio Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee
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Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Ohio Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 14, which would declare racism a public health crisis and ask the Governor to establish a working group to promote racial equity in Ohio. My name is Dr. Tomislav Mihaljevic, and I am CEO and President of Cleveland Clinic.

According to the National Academy of Medicine, medical care is estimated to account for only 20% of a person's health. The other 80% is known as Social Determinants of Health: life expectancy, infant mortality and maternal mortality, mental health, smoking, drug and opioid use, obesity, housing, lead poisoning, crime, literacy and other factors.

Cleveland Clinic is committed to ending long-standing structural racism that results in health disparities. Paying attention to racism and taking action as clinicians and caregivers will guide our pursuit of true equality, justice and care for our patients and community. We will consider our own role in promoting change by serving as a trusted partner to the communities we serve and giving voice to our caregivers.

Cleveland Clinic fully supports SCR 14 and the efforts of Senator Sandra Williams and Senator Hearcel Craig in introducing this legislation that would make Ohio the first state in the nation to address racism as a public health crisis. Helping others to heal is our mission and caring for the community is a priority. There is no place for racism in our world.

This legislation can enable and empower us to take this issue head on. It can provide a platform that can initiate substantive care and sustainable change, beginning at a governmental level and then cascading throughout our state.