

Dear Senators,

We are living in a time that most never thought imaginable. In a world where great advances are made daily, we have suffered the greatest declines. In fact, many of us believed that due to our “perceived” advances, that our society as a whole was better off than generations past. I fear that at this pace, if we don’t eradicate the disease of racism, humanity will not last.

While we applauded the great strides and advancements in policy, technology and medicine, and we began to believe there was very little that we could not achieve, we continually turned a blind eye to the facts. The fact is that those advances actually failed society. Those advancements, while beneficial in theory, only applied to those who could or were allowed to reap the benefits. Those who live in a world of great disparity have not only fallen through the cracks, but because of our blind ambitions and our failures, they have been swallowed up by a divide that has grown as rapidly as any perceived advancements we chose to celebrate.

Now, many are seeing what always was, a “Race” that is in the race of it’s life. Unfortunately for some, they lost that race. This crisis is more than just about a “color”, a religion, a belief, or nationality. This race is a humanitarian crisis and one that if we do not win, we will have lost the decency of the human race for hundreds of years to come.

This systemic racism is more than just what happens in the public eye, and that which makes police blotters, court dockets, national headlines, and social media. Racism affects every black child from the first breath it takes to the last. Inadequate healthcare, from pre-natal to death, is woefully painful to witness and it costs more to society than money. Educational opportunities are limited based upon a zip code and not afforded as it should be under a strong moral code. The widespread desperation of those seeking affordable safe housing or basic necessities of life are seen all across our state and our country. Violence and crime are not just a “cause of action”, they are a “reaction” of hopeless people who have turned to alternative ways of survival. People who say that “they” have a choice, have never taken the time to understand or have lived in a world where choice is a dream and that dream is often interrupted by a nightmare that they can never wake from. Exploitation is more rampant in populations of suffrage than anyone wants to accept and that exploitation is not restricted to the poorest of neighborhoods. Major corporations and private companies have become skilled at the art of “racial” manipulation in an effort to write a narrative that allows their profit margins to soar while those who are being exploited become a casualty of the process.

As you think through the “health” crisis we face today, please know that WE are only “healthy” if EVERYONE IS HEALTHY. You can not cure a disease with a band-aide. You must first identify the disease, understand the DNA of the disease, determine how wide-spread the disease really is, prevent the disease from spreading while treating those with the disease, and then look to CURE THE DISEASE. RACISM is a DISEASE and until we treat it as such, this pandemic will continue to grow and the ENTIRE HUMAN RACE will suffer.

Thank you for your time.