

I have included my written testimony below as I cannot appear in person. I have attached my witness slip as well. Please let me know if there are any follow up questions.

Thank you Chairman Burke, Vice-Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of Ohio Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee. My name is Charu Gupta and I am a resident of Dayton, Ohio. I am a current third-year medical student at Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine. I am here to testify in support of Senate Concurrent Results 14 (SCR 14) declaring that racism is a public health crisis.

Experiencing racism and discrimination is not uncommon as a woman of color. This email is not to talk about my personal racism experiences but to emphasize how racism is a public health crisis that is threatening Black lives as I type this email today. I recognize my privilege as a South Asian and current medical student and therefore, have chosen to use it to voice my opinions about the systemic racism in this country, as well as advocate for my fellow Black brothers and sisters. Racism has created a plethora of health disparities in minority communities, creating poor health outcomes. Our country's indifference towards racism is disheartening and unacceptable; racism affects my patients' health and well-being. Centuries of systemic racism has deeply traumatized Black communities and continues to plague them as violence, chronic conditions, high infant mortality, and poor overall health outcomes. These realities are evident in my own city of Dayton. As your constituent, I am asking you to support SCR 14 and declare racism as a public health crisis. We will not lose any more of our Black brothers and sisters to racism.

In closing, I would like to thank the committee for their time in considering my testimony, as well as would like to thank the SCR 14 sponsors, Senator Sandra Williams and Senator Hearcel Craig.

I am open to any questions you may have regarding my testimony.

Sincerely,

Charu L. Gupta
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