



# City of Akron, Ohio

**DANIEL HORRIGAN, MAYOR**

Daniel Horrigan  
Mayor, City of Akron  
Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee  
SCR 14 – Proponent Testimony  
June 9, 2020

Dear Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee:

My name is Daniel Horrigan and I am the Mayor of the City of Akron. I write to you today to express my support to SCR 14, which proposes to declare racism a public health crisis and to ask the Governor to establish a working group to promote racial equity in Ohio. The City of Akron stands with those fighting against the systemic inequities that afflict communities across our country - including our own. The murders of George Floyd and Sandra Bland are two instances of many recent examples of how racism and structural injustices embedded in the very fabric of our society manifest themselves in fear, distrust, and the stolen lives of African Americans.

On Monday June 8, 2020, I along with President Margo Sommerville and Councilwoman Tara Samples introduced a similar resolution to our City Council, declaring racism as a public health crisis and creating a Special Taskforce to develop five-year Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan. The reforms that come out of this strategic plan will be funded adequately so that the impact of equity can be realized when they are implemented. I ask the Ohio Legislature adequately fund the strategies that the statewide commission recommends to fully realize the much needed equity in Ohio.

Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Minority Member Antonio and members of the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee Agency Review Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify. We appreciate your consideration of the impact this resolution would have on members of our community. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Daniel Horrigan  
Mayor, City of Akron