



Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee, thank you for taking the time to review this letter in support of SCR 14.

COHHIO stands in solidarity with Senators Craig, Williams and all the co-sponsors of SCR 14. COHHIO also joins the demand for justice for **George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery**, as well as so many other Black Americans killed by police, many of them in Ohio. We remember and honor **Julius Tate Jr., John Crawford, Tamir Rice, Henry Green, and Tyre King**, among others who lost their lives to the violence of racism, systemic inequality, and police brutality in recent years.

COHHIO recognizes that to solve the crisis of racial inequality, issues that relate to and impact our work to combat housing insecurity and homelessness, we must center the voices, needs and aspirations of the Black community in our strategies.

The coronavirus pandemic illustrates the intimate connection between health and home. The virus also highlights deep racial inequities that results from so many years of discriminatory housing and lending policies in our country. African-Americans are far more likely than whites to experience housing insecurity and homelessness. African-Americans are more likely to work in low-wage industries that have been hardest hit by recent job layoffs. And African-Americans are more likely to die from COVID-19. These fundamental injustices go to the heart of the civil unrest we now see erupting in cities throughout the U.S.

Amid the virulence of two infectious diseases, entrenched racism and COVID-19, the underlying conditions that contribute to the deathly risk of being Black in America, we must and we can do better. We hope this body will pass SCR 14, a bi-partisan resolution which declares racism a public health crisis and calls for state movement in fighting systemic inequality.

Please don't hesitate to e-mail racialequity@cohhio.org or COHHIO Executive Director, Bill Faith (billfaith@cohhio.org) with any comments or questions.



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