



State Senator
TINA MAHARATH

3rd District

**Sponsor Testimony
Senate Resolution 10
Health Committee
Wednesday, March 17, 2021**

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Health Committee, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Resolution 10, a resolution to honor the lives of those lost to the Covid-19 pandemic.

As the Covid-19 pandemic enters its second year, lately there have been many reasons to be optimistic that the end is in sight. As you all know, there have been multiple effective vaccines developed and they are being administered to more people every day. However, for the hundreds of thousands of Americans who have lost their lives to this pandemic, this hope for the future never came, and for their loved ones who carry on, this time must at best feel bittersweet.

In the year since the start of this pandemic, well over 500,000 Americans have died from Covid-19, meaning that for approximately every minute this past year, someone has died due to this disease. Over 17,000 of the lives lost have been Ohioans. Many of them died without being able to be near or physically speak to their loved ones, and many families have been unable to hold a proper funeral to memorialize them.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, at least 2,900 healthcare workers have died from this disease trying to provide care for patients. This disease has also disproportionately affected communities of color, exacerbating existing health disparities among minority communities. Recent data from the CDC show that Black, Latinx, Pacific Islander, and Indigenous Americans have a Covid-19 death rate of more than double that of white Americans.

This resolution is to recognize and honor all of these lives lost to the Covid-19 pandemic. Chairman Huffman and members of the Health Committee, I appreciate



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your attention to this issue and I respectfully request your favorable consideration and passage of Senate Resolution 10. Thank you and I am happy to respond to questions from the committee.