



June 9, 2020

Senator Dave Burke
Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee
Ohio Senate

Dear Chairman Burke, Vice Chairman Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio and Committee Members,


Thank you for this opportunity to vehemently support SCR14, which seeks to declare racism a public health emergency and pursue policies to eliminate racial inequities in the state of Ohio. Numerous studies – including those cited in the resolution – document the degree to which the health of our black and brown neighbors is disproportionately, negatively impacted by the structural racism permeating our country and state.

Philanthropy Ohio, whose vision is a just and vibrant Ohio through impactful philanthropy, for the past 13+ years has worked to advance diversity, equity and inclusion both in our own organization and in our 200+ members. We have provided opportunities for our staff, board and members to learn about racism by participating in trainings and convenings to better understand through data and stories the perspective that racism is fundamentally structural in nature. Together we've learned to move beyond relying on personal feelings and popular opinion to an awareness of historical factors and data on racial disparities and inequitable outcomes.

We will continue our work and strongly encourage your support and passage of SCR14 so that, by working together, all Ohio children can grow up in a community free of system racism and its many impacts.

Sincerely,


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