

Senator Daugherty Abrams (Co-Chair), Representative Steinberg (Co-Chair) and Members of the Public Health Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Jim Adams and I live in Bolton, Connecticut. I stand in support of S.B. 1 An Act Equalizing Comprehensive Access to Mental, Behavioral and Physical Health Care in Response to the Pandemic. More specifically Section 6 and 7 to declare racism as a public health crisis in the state and establish a commission to study the impact of institutional racism on public health.

Since its inception, our country (including all of its states) has evolved on a foundation of systemic white racism which has resulted in life threatening disparities for non-whites in all areas of life, including health, education, housing, employment, and criminal justice. Data continues to clearly show that non-whites are significantly burdened in all of these areas, as a result of systemic racism. This unjust and immoral situation has persisted for too long, and we ask that Connecticut begin by acknowledging that racism is the underlying cause, show state and national leadership by passing a racism resolution, and initiating the required actions to address all aspects of racism and the inequities it has so clearly created.

S.B. 1 is an opportunity for our state to lead the pursuit for racial justice with action. I stand with the Connecticut Campaign to Address Racism as a Public Health Crisis and ask that the following recommendations also be considered in this bill.

- The name of the commission be changed to be reflective of its work ie. "The Connecticut Commission on Racial Impact and Reconciliation"
- A commitment to 2 members of the proposed commission be persons of color, residing in a major city of Connecticut with an annual income of less than \$65,000 creating a total of 12 commission members.
- Expand racial/ethnic data collection to expose disparities in communities.
- A review and reform of the legislative process to improve public accessibility and set in place mechanism to determine the impact of proposed legislation on race.
- Training for OLR and OFA to create racial and ethnic impact assessments
- Establishing a clear racial equity approach in policies set forth by the executive branch.

In closing, I urge you to support S.B. 1 An Act Equalizing Comprehensive Access to Mental, Behavioral and Physical Health Care in Response to the Pandemic.

Thank you,  
Jim Adams  
Bolton, CT