

March 16, 2021

A democracy can only function when its systems are just and equitable. Four hundred years of entrenched, systemic racism has created and nurtured a grossly unequal society. Injustice has a negative, deleterious effect on society as a whole and is not sustainable in a democracy. Racism is a dangerous threat to public health.

From the AMA: “AMA: Racism is a threat to public health”

<https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/health-equity/ama-racism-threat-public-health>

“The AMA recognizes that racism negatively impacts and exacerbates health inequities among historically marginalized communities. Without systemic and structural-level change, health inequities will continue to exist, and the overall health of the nation will suffer,” said AMA Board Member Willarda V. Edwards, MD, MBA.

“As physicians and leaders in medicine, we are committed to optimal health for all, and are working to ensure all people and communities reach their full health potential,” Dr. Edwards said. “Declaring racism as an urgent public health threat is a step in the right direction toward advancing equity in medicine and public health, while creating pathways for truth, healing, and reconciliation.”

There are no reasonable, evidence-based arguments against the reality that systemic racism is a threat to public health. Please support and pass: SB 1 An Act Equalizing Comprehensive Access to Mental, Behavioral and Physical Health Care in Response to the Pandemic.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Bass