

March 17, 2021
phtestimony@cga.ct.gov

Re: SUPPORT for SB ,1 An Act Equalizing Comprehensive Access to Mental, Behavioral and Physical Health Care in Response to the Pandemic

Dear Co-chair Daugherty Abrams, Co-Chair Steinberg, and Honorable Members of the Public Health Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly,

Please accept this testimony in SUPPORT of SB 1. Thank you for bringing up this bill.

We are in strong support of Sections 6 and 7, which would declare racism as a public health crisis in the state and establish a commission to study the impact of institutional racism on public health.

Please consider the following amendments to improve this bill:

- 1) Change the name of the commission to be reflective of its work i.e., “The Connecticut Commission on Racial Impact and Reconciliation”;
- 2) Make it so 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;
- 3) Expand racial/ethnic data collection to expose disparities in communities;
- 4) Require 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;
- 5) Require training for OLR and OFA to create racial and ethnic impact assessments; and
- 6) Establish a clear racial equity approach in policies set forth by the executive branch.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours truly,
Neil and Annie Hornish
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