

Hello,

My name is Nanette Rivera and I would like to make a comment for the next public hearing on Wednesday, March 17th at 9 am. I am a constituent of Farmington, Connecticut at 12J Talcott Forest Rd. Farmington CT. 06032. I am a dental student at UConn.

I would like to express my opinions on the next public hearing under the bill titled S.B. No. 1: An act equalizing comprehensive access to mental, behavioral, and physical health care in response to the pandemic. According to the Connecticut Health Foundation, COVID-19 has led to disproportionately higher infection and mortality rates in nursing homes in minority communities. Also, black and Latinx residents are 2 times more likely to be unable to afford food for their family, which has only been exacerbated by the pandemic.

Several towns have already passed resolutions declaring racism as a public health crisis. As a future dentist, I am asking the Representative Marc Demicco to support this declaration by voting in favor of SB No1. Thank you for your time and consideration.

All opinions and views expressed, in my testimony are entirely personal and do not necessarily represent the opinions or views of anyone else, including other faculty, staff, residents/fellows or students in the SOM at UConn. Neither the SOM nor UConn have approved the material contained in this testimony. I take sole responsibility for this content.

Thanks,

Nanette Rivera