

Testimony to the Connecticut General Assembly's Appropriations Committee

In support of House Bill No. 6662

3/26/2021

Written Testimony Submitted to the Connecticut General Assembly Joint Committee on Appropriations **in support of House Bill No. 6662: An Act Declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis and Establishing the Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health**

My name is Linda Bronstein and I am a voting resident of West Hartford. I am writing to show my support of H.B. No. 6662: An Act Declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis and Establishing the Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health.

This matters to me because it is no longer possible to pretend that communities can live in isolation from each other. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated vividly to us that no community can be safe and prosper if other communities are not safe and are unable to prosper.

Systemic and structural racism play a large role in determining the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and they affect people's access to quality housing, education, food, transportation, political power, and other social determinants of health.

The constant stress of bearing the brunt of racism has negative mental and physical health consequences such as depression, anxiety, hypertension, preterm birth, shortened life span and diminished quality of life. Understanding and addressing racism from this public health perspective is crucial to eliminating racial and ethnic inequities, and improving the well-being of all of our communities.

H.B. 6662 is an opportunity for our state to lead in the pursuit of racial justice. I stand with the Connecticut Campaign to Address Racism as a Public Health Crisis and ask that this bill be amended to include a review and reform of the legislative process to improve public accessibility and set in place mechanisms to determine the impact of all proposed legislation in terms of race.

In closing, I urge you to support H.B. No. 6662 An Act Declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis and Establishing the Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health.

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