

H.B. No. 6662, An Act Declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis and Establish the Commission on Racism Equity in Public Health.

Appropriations Committee
Aaron Morabito
March 23rd, 2021

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Hartley, Representative Dathan, Representative Nolan, and esteemed members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Aaron Morabito and I live in Rocky Hill, Connecticut. I stand in 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.

Declaring racism a public health crisis is the first of several steps that need to be taken in order to make our state more equitable to marginalized communities. We cannot ignore the health disparities that COVID-19 has made even more clear over the past year. I have seen those close to me deal with the effects of this inequity, as they are not able to access adequate health care, cannot afford necessary medical medications or procedures, and are not believed by their doctors for the symptoms and pain they experience.

Specifically, I **strongly support** H.B.6662, An Act Declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis and Establishing the Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health.

I **respectfully recommend** the Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health reporting requirements to be staffed to send the report to the Connecticut General Assembly on the status of the commission of activities and progress made and recommendations for policy changes and any changes to the commission's goals.

The pandemic did not create the deep racial inequities in our state, but it can be an opportunity to address them. This bill takes steps to dismantle components of systemic racism and move Connecticut closer to health equity. Racial minorities are dying at extreme rates, and we have to act quickly to preserve the health of these communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in 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.**

Sincerely,
Aaron Morabito