



**Testimony in Support of
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

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

My name is Sofia I. Morales and I live in New Haven, Connecticut. Today I submit this written testimony in strong 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.

I work with the Community Alliance for Research & Engagement (CARE) at the Yale School of Public Health, where I serve as the Program Manager for Research and Evaluation. Our mission at CARE is to improve health in New Haven among people most impacted by disparities, including black and brown communities and low-income populations, through collaborative research, practice, and engagement.

Historically, racism has led to the violent oppression of people of color. To this day, racism continues to be a driving force that negatively impacts social determinants of health and is a barrier to health equity. Racism meets all three criteria of a Public Health Crisis: (1) It affects large numbers of people; (2) It threatens health over the long-term, and (3) It requires the adoption of large-scale solutions. As such, declaring racism as a public health crisis in Connecticut, and establishing a commission that can begin to dismantle white supremacy, are important first steps in the movement to advance social justice, and will allow us to hold our state accountable for addressing systemic racism.

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,



Sofia I. Morales, MPH, CPH