

Appropriations Committee
March 26, 2021

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

We are a group of mental health professionals who live and work in Connecticut. We 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.

We are CEDEA. The Committee for Equity and Diversity Education and Action (CEDEA) is a committee of the Connecticut Society for Psychoanalytic Psychology (CSPP), which is the local chapter of Division 39 of the American Psychological Association. CEDEA was founded by a core group of members of CSPP, and was developed out of the interest in, concern for, and dedication to exploring issues of social justice as they interface with psychoanalytic and psychodynamic thinking and practice.

We recognize the heavy psychological toll of racism and the consequences are dire. We know that these consequences include, but are not limited to, depression, anxiety, PTSD and chronic medical problems and substance use disorders. From research, we know that systemic racism is a social determinant of health itself, and also produces inequities across all aspects of physical and mental health.

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

We respectfully recommend the bill include staffing to create racial impact assessments on proposed policies. This will enable the Connecticut General Assembly to evaluate the potential for policies to promote equity or have a disparate impact.

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,

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