

Dear Legislators,

My name is San De Min, I am a sixteen year old high school student from East Hartford and have been living in the U.S. for almost eleven years now. I am writing 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*.

Before moving in 2017, I had grown up the majority of my childhood in downtown Hartford and regularly visited the Community Health Services on Albany Avenue with my mom. Oftentimes there would be food drives and small events in the lobby to promote healthy eating and drug prevention. As I've grown older, I've become increasingly aware of recurring health issues and general miseducation, or even lack thereof, in predominantly low-income black and brown neighborhoods. I support H.B No. 6662 because I think it would be an opportunity to thoroughly investigate the extent of racism in public health—finally paying attention and putting in resources to where it is needed most.

If this bill was passed, I feel Connecticut legislators would be better equipped to alleviate issues like generational poverty and racial disparities in healthcare. It has been a year into the COVID-19 pandemic and I feel there has never been a more critical time to utilize the state's resources to support Connecticut families in need.

Sincerely,
San De Min