

**HB 6662, AN ACT DECLARING RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS AND
ESTABLISHING THE COMMISSION ON RACIAL EQUITY IN PUBLIC HEALTH.**

3/26/2021

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

My name is Lauren Garrett and I live in Hamden, CT. I am writing in support of HB 6662, An Act Declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis and Establishing The Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health.

I, like many others, watched a Black female doctor use facebook live to detail the inequity in her medical care. White doctors did not believe her medical history that she was able to accurately disclose, given that she too was a doctor. White doctors ignored her pain and accused her of drug seeking. She died of Covid in a hospital because she was not given adequate care. Her cause of death may have been Covid, but the contributing factor was racism.

Black people are 10% more likely than white people to be infected by Covid, however, Black people are almost 3 times more likely to be hospitalized and almost 2 times more likely to die, according to the CDC. Our Black neighbors are more likely to be essential workers and have underlying health conditions that increase the risk of Covid.

The recovery of our health and economy will require studying the effects of racism on public health as well as taking action to mitigate racial disparities. Racism is foundational to American History. Slavery, Jim Crow, and Redlining have created white wealth and opportunity by subjugating Black people. It is time for us to improve the lives and health outcomes of our Black neighbors.

I urge you to pass HB 6662 because people are dying and we cannot wait any longer.

Thank you,

Lauren Garrett
Hamden, CT