

March 24, 2021

Senator Catherine A. Osten (Co-Chair)
Representative Toni E. Walker (Co-Chair)
Members of the Connecticut General Assembly Appropriations Committee

My name is William Marut, and I live in Glastonbury, 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.

My involvement with the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA) has raised my level of awareness of the existence and magnitude of the inequities in public health across racial lines here in Connecticut.

One source I found particularly eye-opening was the DataHaven website:
<https://ctdatahaven.org/reports/towards-health-equity-connecticut>

This site contains a plethora of quantitative and qualitative data on the matter. In fact, one need look no further than the top of the landing page before coming across a downloadable 44-page booklet on the subject, entitled “Towards Health Equity in Connecticut.”

H.B. 6662 is an opportunity for our state to lead the pursuit for racial justice with action. I stand with the Connecticut Campaign to Address Racism as a Public Health Crisis. To that end,

- I ask that this bill be amended to include a review and reform of the legislative process to improve public accessibility and set in place mechanisms to determine the impact of proposed legislation on race.
- I urge you to support H.B. No. 6662 An Act Declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis and Establishing the Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health.

Thank you,

William Marut, a concerned citizen
Glastonbury, Connecticut