

June 18, 2020

Governor Tim Walz  
Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan  
Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka  
Senate Minority Leader Susan Kent

Speaker of the House Melissa Hortman  
House Majority Leader Ryan Winkler  
House Minority Leader Kurt Daudt

Dear Governor Walz, Lt. Governor Flanagan, and House and Senate Leadership,

We, the undersigned health care providers urge your support of police reform legislation proposed by the People of Color and Indigenous Caucus during the current special session. These proposals support reclaiming community oversight, reforming accountability and reimagining public safety which are crucial to shaping our collective response to the root causes that lead to George Floyd's murder and the events that followed.

Minnesota is at a crossroads. What happened, and what is happening, unmasked generational pain and trauma in communities of color that will require our collective focus for the long journey ahead. Minnesotans and the world will be watching how we respond to this latest chapter in an unacceptably long book of our history. The reality that the broader population is waking up to is that our system imbeds the marginalization of people and underpins inequity among entire segments of our society including people of color, Indigenous people, people who have disabilities, and children. It is time to change our public policies in response to these voices.

As hospitals and health care providers we have a front row seat to the health impacts of injustices, injuries and assaults on the most vulnerable among us. Each day we care for children, people without insurance, citizens and noncitizens who have been marginalized, young people and adults who have a disability or complex medical needs, and patients who have mental illness, many of these individuals' challenges may be compounded by the color of their skin.

Please consider the following:

- Nearly half of those who die at the hands of police have some kind of disability. [\[link\]](#)
- Police violence affects the mental well-being of Black Americans. [\[link\]](#)
- Generational trauma experienced in communities of color contributes to chronic stress, which negatively impacts mental health and development.
- Witnessing violence in the home or community is a defined Adverse Childhood Experience (ACEs), or potentially traumatic event that occurs in childhood. ACEs are linked to chronic health problems, mental illness, and substance abuse in adulthood. [\[link\]](#)

As caregivers who serve everyone in our surrounding communities, we speak with one voice and humbly urge you to pass the People of Color and Indigenous Caucus legislative proposals. These changes are vital for creating the momentum that will carry us to a place of equity, justice, trust and healing.

Sincerely,

Allina Health  
Children's Minnesota  
Essentia Health  
Fairview Health Services  
Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare  
HealthPartners  
Hennepin Healthcare

CC:

Rep. Jamie Becker-Finn  
Rep. Aisha Gomez  
Rep. Hodan Hassan  
Rep. Kaohly Her  
Rep. Mary Kunesh-Podein  
Rep. Fue Lee  
Rep. Alice Mann  
Rep. Carlos Mariani  
Rep. Rena Moran  
Rep. Mohamud Noor  
Rep. Ruth Richardson  
Rep. Samantha Vang  
Rep. Jay Xiong  
Rep. Tou Xiong  
Sen. Melisa Franzen  
Sen. Foug Hawj  
Sen. Jeff Hayden  
Sen. Bobby Joe Champion  
Sen. Patricia Torres Ray