



Senator Pan
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5114
Sacramento, CA 95814

February 23rd, 2021

RE: Letter of Support - SB 17 (Pan et al) Public health crisis: racism

Dear Senator Pan,

On behalf of the members of the Black Leadership Council (BLC), we write to express our support for SB17. SB 17 would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to require the department, in collaboration with the Health in All Policies Program, the Office of Health Equity, and other relevant departments, agencies, and stakeholders, to address racism as a public health crisis.

The Black Leadership Council (BLC), represents a large cross section of Black executive leaders from major public, private and civic organizations in communities across the Bay Area and beyond. The BLC works to put forth proposals for a Black Prosperity Agenda that will leverage public and private investments in system-level change across the ecosystem for Black communities' health, wealth, housing and education arenas. We seek to move major reforms across these various systems with the help of other statewide coalitions that are working to improve broken systems that fail Black communities, and to leverage the movements towards racial equity and reparations in the U.S.

We hold that SB 17 is a big step towards the State's acknowledgement that racism has played a deleterious role to public health and its social and economic conditions for the state's Black, Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) residents. Hence, BLC is working closely with the State and external partners to help ensure further commitments develop future public policies to:

1. Reverse the effects of structural racism within our public systems of care such as health services, housing, food/agriculture, water, education, and consumer protection;
2. Develop and implement regulatory, programmatic, and budgetary changes within governments, non-profits, and commercial entities that improve specific health, social and economic outcomes BIPOC communities;
3. Proactively work to infuse lessons from the California Taskforce on Reparations, as enacted by AB 3121, to inform changes to the regulatory, budgetary, and programmatic functions of state government;
4. Empower and require local governments that receive state funding to replicate state examination activities towards racial equity, and to recognize their role in

perpetuating systemic racism that similarly exacerbates poor health, social, and economic outcomes for BIPOC communities;

5. Take bold steps towards regulating businesses - particularly banks, insurance providers, and other longstanding corporate institutions – that have historic ties to the widespread exacerbation of structural racism and poor outcomes for BIPOC communities in the State. These regulations must illustrate pathways to reversing the deleterious effects of key industries that have been built on the subjugation, exploitation, and commodification of BIPOC in the state of California.

We recognize that SB 17 does not reach the above thresholds, but believe that the state must first take the more immediate step of acknowledging the public health crises that racism has created for our state and the U.S. For these reasons, BLC proudly supports this legislation.

Sincerely,

Co-Chairs Black Leadership Council

Brett Andrews, CEO, *PRC*

Kelly Dearman, Executive Director, *SF in Home Supportive Services Public Authority*

Nicole Lindler, Community Leader

Tomiquia Moss, Founder & CEO, *All Home*

CC: Assemblymember Arambula
Assemblymember Chiu
Assemblymember Durazo
Assemblymember Rivas