

Dear Colleagues:

“The American Association of University Professors (AAUP) recognizes the special responsibility of educators and scholars in meeting the problems arising from racial discrimination and related inequalities of economic opportunity. Previous resolutions have established our Association's firm stand against racial discrimination and have supported those legislative enactments designed to secure for all United States citizens the full enjoyment of their civil rights. We now call upon all individuals and institutions in the academic community to employ their resources of skill and knowledge in the elimination of racism in all phases of American life.”

The above paragraph is a statement that was released by the AAUP in 1968. Sadly, over 50 years later, our society has not been able to overcome racism and racial inequality. As public servants, we stand proudly in support of, and alongside those, who are striving for positive change in our United States.

We remain diminished as a society when people of color are continually left behind and repeatedly victimized by societal systems that perpetuate racism and racial inequality. Our members immersed in our nation's delivery of health care and education bear first-hand witness to the generational impact of disparate experiences of communities of color in our society.

We recognize these outcomes are born of long-standing economic injustice, broken promises, and lack of diverse cultural representation and understanding. We should continually seek to learn from our patients, students, and colleagues in order to fully understand the experiences of our fellow citizens and effect the societal changes that are required today. We should be devoted to creating positive change in our clinics, emergency departments, hospital floors, research laboratories, and classrooms.

The senseless taking of George Floyd's life and the subsequent two weeks of protest have laid bare how far we are from the America we can become. It has instead revealed the extremes of our humanity, both in the devaluation of a man's life and the nation's decrying of that same act. This should give us courage, the courage to stand together and lead by example. Working together will bring us much closer to the America we know we can be, today rather than tomorrow.

We pledge to do our part by standing with our fellow Connecticut residents for justice. We will continue to strive for the equitable delivery of quality, affordable, and accessible education and healthcare at our flagship public University and Health Center.

America has always been an idea, never yet fully realized, that we can only truly achieve by working together. Let's get to work.

Kind regards,

UCHC-AAUP Executive Council