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Maine Medical Association Statement on Systemic Racism

The Maine Medical Association stands in unwavering solidarity with our Black members and coworkers, and every Black person, both in and outside our communities, speaking out against systemic racism and acts of police violence. We unequivocally oppose racism and discrimination and we firmly support inclusiveness and diversity.

Social injustices and the violation of human rights against Black people have been problems in the United States for far too long. There must be concrete change, and for it to happen these issues must continue to be brought to the forefront, condemned, and remembered.

Unfortunately, the long history of racism also rears its ugly head in public health. Currently, Black people across the nation become infected and die with COVID-19 disproportionately, and Black men historically have the lowest life expectancy of any demographic group in the country.

Maine is growing but remains limited in ethnic and racial diversity. Physician diversity must also be a goal to delivering quality, competent care, free of discrimination. There is a disturbing underrepresentation of Black medical students and academic teaching physicians nationwide. The Maine Medical Association commits to reaching out, and working with our colleagues at Maine medical schools and residencies to improve that. By the end of 2020, we also commit to developing more comprehensive, concrete, and actionable solutions to address unacceptable health disparities in Maine.

We ask everyone in our health care community to join with us and speak out against racism and injustices in our workplaces, our great State of Maine and our nation. The MMA is committed to lasting change in the name of equity and justice and will not tolerate racism or discrimination of any kind. Black and minority residents of Maine should know that the MMA will fight for your health and wellbeing and will combat the systemic causes of racism that plague our state.

For more information, contact:

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The MMA is a professional organization of more than 4300 physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine whose mission is to support Maine physicians, advance the quality of medicine in Maine, and promote the health of all Maine citizens.

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