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The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Leader Hoyer, and Leader McCarthy:

I write on behalf of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAAAI) to urge Congress to examine health care inequities and confront racial and ethnic disparities.

The events over the past weeks and months have glaringly highlighted the persistent health inequities impacting on our communities of color, as well as the health inequities impacting individuals living in other vulnerable communities. Racism is a public health threat and a driver of health inequity. COVID-19 is a public health threat.

Established in 1943, the AAAAI is a professional organization with more than 6,700 members in the United States, Canada and 72 other countries. This membership includes board certified allergist/immunologists, other medical specialists, allied health, and related healthcare professionals – all with a special interest in the research and treatment of patients with allergic and immunological diseases.

As an organization whose mission is to advance the knowledge and practice of allergy, asthma and immunology for optimal patient care, the AAAAI stands against racism and hate. We recognize that experiences of racism and discrimination increase the risk for health problems, including asthma and COVID-19. The AAAAI is an

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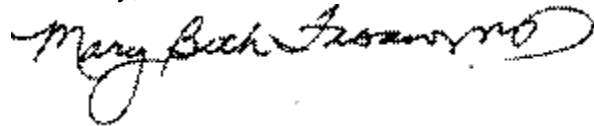
organization of healthcare professionals, individuals who are committed to advancing health for all. The AAAAI is an organization of educators, including members who are directly involved in the training of medical students, residents and fellows. Training that must include and address factors that affect health disparities and healthcare access.

To move forward, we need to learn and listen from individuals who have faced discrimination. The AAAAI has made a commitment to act. We are exploring opportunities for engagement with student medical associations serving minority groups as part of our new strategic plan and will monitor how this engagement impacts the future of healthcare provided to underserved populations.

AAAAI stands in unity with the Council of Medical Specialty Societies (CMSS), and the 800,000 physicians across 45 medical specialties that deplore the negative impact of racism in our nation and of racial inequities in our healthcare system. Racism in our society cannot be ignored as it undermines public health. AAAAI officially joined and supports the [CMSS statement on racism on healthcare](#) and we will continue to work to promote equality and reduce the impact of racism.

I am optimistic that by standing together we can effect meaningful change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Beth Fasano, MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Beth Fasano, MD, MSPH, FAAAAI
President, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology