



PRESS RELEASE
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Contact: Melissa Wojnaroski
(202) 618-4158
mwojnaroski@usccr.gov

Ohio Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights Releases Advisory Memorandum: *Civil Rights and Equity in the Delivery of Medical and Public Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Ohio*

Chicago, IL –The Ohio Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights released an [advisory memorandum](#) following a series of public meetings and a collection of public testimony on equity in the delivery of medical and public services during the COVID-19 pandemic. The memorandum examines state and federal responses to the 2019 novel coronavirus pandemic to examine (a) known disparities in the incidence and severity of infections, including death, on the basis of race, color, age, disability, or other federally protected categories; (b) the impact of state and federal responses to the virus on identified health disparities; (c) the impact of state and federal responses to coronavirus on access to public services; and (d) alternative or remedial policies and practices with the demonstrated potential to address identified concerns.

Primary concerns identified in the memorandum include long-standing health disparities based on race and color and their impact on the incidence and severity of COVID-19 infections; the role of poverty, working conditions, and housing on exacerbating identified disparities; and cautions and considerations regarding the policy response to the pandemic. The memorandum concludes with a series of recommendations regarding actions that can be taken to understand and address the identified civil rights issues moving forward.

Committee Chair Diane Citrino said, “The disparate impact of the pandemic on people of color and other protected groups in Ohio is evident. Our Committee’s Advisory Memorandum offers suggestions to create greater equity throughout our state as we all struggle to deal with this disease and its effects on our communities.”

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is the only independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights and reporting annually on federal civil rights enforcement. Our 51 state Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. The Commission: in our 7th decade, a continuing legacy of influence in civil rights. For information about the Commission, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).