



June 15, 2020

The Honorable Napoleon Harris, III
1350 E. Sibley Blvd.
Suite 403
Dolton, IL 60419

The Honorable Thaddeus Jones
15525 South Park Ave
Suite 104
South Holland, IL 60473

Dear Chairman Harris and Chairman Jones:

First and foremost, on behalf of our members who represent over 80% of the life and health insurance market in Illinois, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you both for your leadership as Chairs of the Senate and House Insurance Committees in promoting a fair and balanced approach towards policies that support a vibrant and competitive life and health insurance industry state while also protecting the health and financial well-being of all employers, individuals, and families in our state.

The pandemic, and most notably, the events over the past several weeks have re-exposed systemic discrimination and racial inequities that demonstrate we still have much work to do in order to truly achieve health and financial well-being for **ALL** Illinoisans. The pain, anxiety, frustration and economic distress that has plagued our Black communities, even well before COVID-19 and the unfortunate events that took the life of George Floyd and many before him, should not be tolerated in today's America.

The Council and our entire industry denounce the racism, bigotry, and prejudice that has torn us apart, but we must do much more than simply denounce this reality.

Through your roles as Chairs of the Senate and House Insurance Committees, you have consistently challenged all stakeholders, including the Council, to seek legislative compromise, which requires us to respect the diversity in viewpoints that drive the legislative process – something ILHIC holds in high regard.

We are at a point in our history where we must also challenge ourselves to re-examine whether there is more we can do as an industry to drive towards solutions that address systemic inequality and empower health, prosperity, and growth in our underserved and disadvantaged communities.

ILHIC humbly acknowledges that we do not have easy solutions to healing the divide. However, you do have our commitment to work with both of you to explore solutions that are not easy and will require us

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to collectively look inward at approaches that may have simply achieved compromise in the past but did not necessarily move towards overcoming the inequities in our state.

We stand committed to partnering with you and other members of the IL Legislative Black Caucus, to better understand the needs of the communities you serve and how our members can strive towards addressing those needs. The life and health insurance industry also stands committed to fostering diversity and inclusion in our workforce and challenging our partners to do the same.

As former Illinois State Senator and President Barack Obama said, “All of us share this world for but a brief moment in time. The question is whether we spend that time focused on what pushes us apart, or whether we commit ourselves to an effort – a sustained effort – to find common ground, to focus on the future we seek for our children, and to respect the dignity of *all* human beings.”

You not only have the commitment of the Council, but also my personal commitment, to navigate through all that is pushing us apart today and journey towards a path that creates a sustained, collective effort to lift up all of our communities and the individuals and their families that work and live in those communities, regardless of race or color of their skin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura B. Minzer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laura Minzer
President