

Statement from the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Board of Directors

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities decries the murders at the hands of law enforcement of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, and Malik Williams, and the countless other Black Americans who have lost their lives through similar circumstances but their names do not make the media. We are in solidarity with those demanding justice, who reject hate and racism, across the nation.

Racism is a disability issue. We mourn the fact that as many as 50% of people killed by law enforcement each year are people with disabilities – and specifically, people with disabilities who are disproportionately Black, Indigenous, Latinx, or LGBTQ+. We mourn the disproportionately Black, Indigenous, Latinx, or LGBTQ children with disabilities who are restrained, secluded, or who die in schools that have criminalized student behavior. We also mourn the tragic and disproportionate loss of life that COVID-19 has taken on these same communities as a result of structural racism, including much higher rates of incarceration and centuries of inequitable and systemic health policies.

CCD calls on government and elected officials to drive systemic change in police departments, schools, and our health care system to reform policies and practices that allow racism to flourish in their ranks. CCD also commits to taking steps to address racism and inequity internally and with our members, by adopting anti-oppression and anti-racist principles. We will work to create a formal process for coalition members to express their concerns, reevaluate member participation policies, and invest in anti-racism resources for our membership. We are open to feedback on this or other future steps (feedback@c-c-d.org) and join forces with those working towards a just and safe society for all of us.