The Ohio Psychological Association offers its congratulations to President-Elect Joseph Biden and Vice-President Elect Senator Kamala Harris in their campaigns to become American’s next presidential leaders. Our Association is hopeful that their messages of healing and unity will help to heal the divisions in our country and state. Across Ohio, as is true in America, the election experience highlighted numerous sociopolitical tensions among our society. Divergent views on many social key issues, including COVID-19, healthcare coverage, the economy, police reform, and systemic racism, among so many other topics, all challenge our collective ability to support one another as unified Americans. The OPA is optimistic that this new administration will begin to bring Ohioans together again and move towards mending the tremendous emotionality of the past several year’s fractious divide.

Psychologists will play a vital role in advocacy towards President Elect Biden’s policy goals throughout his term, including the promotion of evidence-based approaches to the COVID-19 pandemic, social justice reforms, and equal access to healthcare. In response to COVID-19. Psychologists’ research and clinical practice will continue to help us understand and respond to the stress in our communities during this uncertain time. OPA supports the President-Elect’s goal to protect the Affordable Care Act, because our profession appreciates that healthcare coverage will allow for the best mental and physical health of those in Ohio.

The election of a women of color to the office of Vice President of the United States will have a positive impact on our communities and will support continued advocacy for racial justice over time in the United States. As Vice President-elect Harris said, “While I may be the first woman in this office, I will not be the last, because every little girl watching tonight sees that this is a country of possibilities.

OPA is committed to facilitating conversations about racism and advocating for policies that support racial justice. OPA is committed to serving our communities, advocating for those who are vulnerable, and moving Ohio towards greater harmony and justice for all. We ask all psychologists to remain ready to embark of intentional conversations, engage in culturally responsive practices, and advocacy to support our society in this time of transition to a new presidential administration.

(Statement from the American Psychological Association is included below for reference.)

The Ohio Psychological Association, in Columbus, Ohio, is membership organization of approximately 1,500 Ohio psychologists. Its mission is to advance psychology as a science, as a profession and as a means of promoting human welfare. For more information or for a psychologist referral, visit www.ohpsych.org.
Statement of American Psychological Association in Reaction to Biden's Election as President

WASHINGTON — Following is a statement by Arthur C. Evans Jr., PhD, chief executive officer of the American Psychological Association, on the election of Joseph R. Biden Jr. as president and Kamala D. Harris as vice president:

“The American Psychological Association looks forward to welcoming former Vice President Joe Biden to the office of president of the United States and the beginning of a new, hopeful era with a leader who has committed to unite our country and implement policies that will stem the spread of COVID-19 and move us closer to having effective treatments and a safe vaccine.

Psychological science will be crucial to aiding the president-elect and vice president-elect on a variety of issues in the COVID-19 fight, including helping to motivate individuals to adopt the science-based treatment and interventions that will be necessary for our success.

“America is a nation in trauma. We are experiencing record stress as a result of the pandemic, economic uncertainty and concerns about racial justice. We will look to the Biden administration to move quickly to address policies that have been harmful to the mental and physical health of the nation and to support increased funding for and wider dissemination and use of the important psychological research that can help our country rebuild and heal its workplaces, its schools, its communities and its people. We also ask that the Biden administration support continuing access to telehealth as our nation copes with these challenges.

“APA supports President-elect Biden in his goal to preserve and strengthen the Affordable Care Act and defend it against judicial challenges. We also look forward to the Biden administration’s respecting and using science to inform critical public policy decisions.

“The American Psychological Association stands ready to work with the new administration and the new Congress to implement laws and policies that will benefit society and improve people’s lives.”