



June 2020

### A Time for Change

ANN acknowledges the pain and suffering currently felt across our nation. As we continue to deal with the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, we face the renewed challenge of a long-standing crisis, that of racism.

The deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and many others have brought our nation's attention to long-standing issues with systemic racism and inequities felt by many in our community. Far too many African-American parents are suffering the heart-aching loss of a child. These issues are dividing our nation and must be addressed.

As a community of health care professionals, we must examine our roles in the larger society, in the healthcare system and in our own organizational and practice settings. COVID-19 has highlighted the burden of disease borne by black, indigenous and people of color in the United States. Like racism, health inequities are long-standing and reflected in areas such as maternal and fetal morbidity and mortality.

ANN does not condone racism, hatred, or social injustice. We support efforts to improve access to health care and to address inequities in resource allocation. We encourage all members to educate yourselves and others about care inequality and institutional racism. Using our collective voices, we must speak out against the inequities and advocate, not only for our patients but also across our communities. ANN continues to work to provide a safe and open environment for learning and we invite all of you to share in that work with us. Over the coming year we will review our educational material to ensure that it is representative of all ethnicities and takes into account the socioeconomic disadvantages experienced by vulnerable groups.

Thank you for the work that you do to provide care to all patients and their families.

Sincerely,

Debbie Fraser, MN, CNeon(C)  
Executive Director