

I urge you to support passage of HB 2337 which declares Racism as a health crisis and requires the collection of pertinent data. I claim no health expertise other than knowing what my Black husband and biracial step-daughter have endured. She has an autoimmune disorder complicated with problems with her back that cause constant pain. She has been to numerous doctors, many of whom, have not taken her pain seriously. At my urging, she has pushed and pushed to get a proper diagnosis and treatment. I am certain that the color of her skin has negatively impacted her access to expert healthcare. The history of horribly racist experimentation also makes my husband reluctant to seek medical care. During a hospitalization a few years ago, it was required that many blood draws be made. He has very small veins. When the technician could not locate his vein, rather than immediately calling a more experienced specialist, he endured repeated and very painful attempts to successfully draw blood. Only after he continued to complain did they finally get the right expert with the proper equipment to locate the vein and successfully draw blood. He is convinced that the color of his skin contributed to his suffering. The medical profession needs to build the trust necessary to successfully treat BIPOC people and this bill is a step in that direction.