

News Release

Oakland County Board unanimously passes Jackson resolution supporting equity in COVID-19 testing, treatment and prevention

June 8, 2020, OAKLAND COUNTY, MI. – At its meeting on May 20, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt a resolution introduced by Commissioner **Janet Jackson** (D-Southfield) underscoring the importance of equity in COVID-19 testing treatment and prevention.

“We need consistent and accurate data to receive adequate federal and state resources for testing, treatment and prevention in the communities most severely affected by this pandemic,” Jackson said. “Without state and federal mandated standardized collection and reporting of COVID-19 data, we will not have a clear picture of the disproportionate impact COVID-19 has on minority communities, nor an effective way to help them.”

The resolution applauded the county administration’s current efforts to expand testing in cities with large minority populations. In addition, the Board recognized the administration’s expansion of health care services to uninsured and underinsured residents by implementing the Oakland Health 360 program. This program aims to close gaps in the county health system by addressing health disparities among our residents.

Through the resolution, the Board also acknowledged that the coronavirus disproportionately affects minority communities. Hispanics make up 24.5 percent of national COVID-19 cases while only accounting for 18 percent of the population, and African-Americans make up 30 percent of COVID-19 cases while only accounting for 13 percent of the population. In Michigan, African-Americans, the largest affected minority group, make up approximately 40 percent of COVID-19 deaths in the state while only accounting for approximately 14 percent of its population.

“Different communities have different needs,” Jackson said. “Whether those needs are increased accessibility, expanded resources or more culturally-appropriate communications, all Oakland County residents deserve every opportunity to be safe and healthy.”

Copies of the resolution will be sent to the Governor of Michigan, the Lieutenant Governor of Michigan, the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, members of the Michigan congressional delegation, the State Senate Majority and Minority leaders, the State House Speaker and Minority leader, members of the Oakland County State Legislature delegation and the Michigan Association of Counties.

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