

Hello Faculty and Staff,

I want to acknowledge the death of George Floyd, an unarmed African American man who was killed last week after a Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck for over eight minutes. The resulting protests, some of which turned violent due to escalations by police and participants, come amid a pandemic that has already claimed over 105,000 American lives.

In 32 states and D.C., African Americans are dying of Covid-19 at a higher rate than their share of the population. Latinos are also testing positive at disproportionate rates, and death statistics for Native Americans are grim. As we follow the protests surrounding Floyd's death and a long string of others such as Breona Taylor here in Louisville, it's worth remembering the similarly deep inequality our country faces when it comes to health care.

Lastly, as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing, I want to share a recent statement from Dr. Eileen Sullivan-Marx, President of the American Academy of Nursing that captures the feelings of many of us in nursing.

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