In Tlingit culture, when one moiety suffers from the loss of a clan member, the other moiety “holds them up” in their time of grieving. Black Americans recently lost three family members, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery, all murdered by the police. Now is the time for AAIP to hold up our Black brothers and sisters and support them through their grief and anger. The Association of American Indian Physicians offers condolences to Black Americans grieving over the violent loss of their beloved community members.

We also join you in the fight against oppression. As Native Americans, our history is inextricably linked to that of Black Americans. We share the history of racial prejudice and systemic injustice. Our statistics on police violence are similar as are our statistics on health, poverty, and education.

The international protests following Mr. Floyd's death are a call to action for all communities experiencing the daily indignities and inhumanity of systemic racism. We've seen protests over the killing of Black men and women many times, but now the unrest is resulting in action. Schools have taken the police out of their buildings and cities are reallocating funding from police departments to public health workers and medical school curriculums are being rewritten to include courses on structural and social determinants of health.

The window of opportunity for additional actions to address systemic oppression is likely to close shortly after the protests end. It is vital that we join in demanding a change in the institutions and actions that perpetuate injustices against Black and Brown communities. Below is a list of actions that AAIP commits to:

- Engaging our communities and families in discussions of anti-racism
- Standing up against inequality
- Standing up to and speaking out against racism
- Standing up with Black Americans in the fight for racial justice

The time is now for AAIP and our members to commit to actions that improve the lives of marginalized peoples across the United States. We must again respond to the international call from oppressed communities everywhere and join the fight for an end to racial prejudice and systemic injustice.

Website: [www.aaip.org](http://www.aaip.org)