



REC-01-20-010169 PCD KUF-HH

December 1, 2020

Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of Chispa Arizona, a program of the League of Conservation Voters, please accept our comments in support of the "Resolution Declaring Racial and Ethnic Health Inequities and Income Inequality a Public Health Crisis".

Chispa Arizona works to grow Latino voices, political power, and civic engagement for a cleaner future in Arizona. This includes the pursuit of policies for healthier, more sustainable communities and to protect our right to a safe environment.

Prior to this pandemic, we knew communities of color had a greater likelihood of asthma, elevated rates of premature death and higher child and infant mortality rates. The COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated our understanding of existing disparities in communities of color. The resolution before the Boar is to begin to acknowledge the role of race in our society. Poverty, lower rates of insurance, historic housing discrimination, and exposure to pollution all come together to create grave risks to community health and well-being. This resolution is a crucial step to begin to address disparities and improve health outcomes and address poverty in our country.

The resolution to recognize racial inequities for access to health complements the American Medical Association's new policy regarding the health impact of systematic racism. In mid-November the American Medical Association (AMA) released a statement that recognizes the three tiers of racism: systematic, cultural, and interpersonal. It also called up on the need to support policies to combat racism and its effects if we are to reach full community health.

At Chispa Arizona, we are working to fight the environmental racism that manifests in the poverty, pollution, and health disparities impacting communities of color - the same communities that are on the frontlines of the climate crisis. We ask you to take this critical step in ensuring Pima County works for everyone and that equity is at the center of policy.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gloria Montañó". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Gloria Montañó Greene
Deputy Director
Chispa Arizona

About CHISPA Arizona

Chispa Arizona is a program of the League of Conservation Voters. Chispa Arizona is growing Latino voices, political power, and civic engagement for a cleaner future in Arizona.