



October 13, 2020

The Honorable Barbara Lee
United States House of Representatives
2470 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lee:

On behalf of the Society for Community Research and Action (SCRA), thank you for introducing House Concurrent Resolution 100 (H.Con.Res.100) “urging the establishment of a United States Commission on Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation (USCTRHT). By leading Congress to reconcile our nation’s painful legacy of historical harm with present-day inequities and injustice, you demonstrate a commitment to transformative action that finally lives up to the promise of our founding ideals.

In recent months, the United States has experienced a nationwide eruption of pain, anger, and grief on a scale that has not been seen for over fifty years. In the words of the resolution, “it is in our collective national interest to urgently address the unhealed, entrenched divisions” and disparities that are a legacy of our nation’s history of conquest and enslavement.

The USCTRHT represents an adaptation of the Truth and Reconciliation process undertaken by at least 40 countries and reflects the urgent need to move beyond reconciliation and, in the context of our nation’s unique diversity, transform systems that have supported and sustained the myth of a hierarchy of human value based on superficial physical characteristics such as skin color and facial features. The Commission’s stated purposes are “to properly acknowledge, memorialize, and be a catalyst for progress toward jettisoning the belief in a hierarchy of human value, embracing our common humanity, and permanently eliminating persistent racial inequities.”

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SCRA strongly supports H.Con.Res.100, urging its prompt adoption, and calling for swift enactment of legislation formally creating the Commission in the 117th Congress. Again, we applaud your leadership in introducing the TRHT Resolution and stand ready to help you achieve its passage.

Sincerely,



Bianca Guzmán, PhD
President
Society for Community Research and Action

About SCRA:

The Society for Community Research and Action – Community Psychology, Division 27 of the American Psychological Association – is an organization devoted to advancing theory, research, and action for social justice. Our members serve many different disciplines committed to promoting health and empowerment and to preventing problems in communities, groups, and individuals. In presenting this letter, the Society for Community Research and Action is writing on behalf of our members and not the American Psychological Association.