

Greetings,

I hope your families are safe, healthy, and well during these challenging times.

We are at a history-making moment in our Commonwealth, not only because of unfolding events surrounding racial justice, but also out of the recognition—and frustration—that we've been here too many times before.

I know this is a time for not just words, but for action. I have learned that this sentiment is shared by many of you from conversations with community leaders of color, colleagues and individuals who experienced the power and trauma of being a part of recent protests.

I want you to know that I stand with the thousands in Framingham, Ashland, Natick, Medway, Franklin, Hopkinton, and Holliston who have come together to listen, amplify the voices of communities of color, and grieve for the murders of Rayshard Brooks, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and the long list of other Black Americans who died because of racism.

The Massachusetts State Senate is ready to answer the call for true change. We are committed to decisive action this session to begin dismantling systemic racism.

Last week, I met with members of the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus to discuss police reform and racial justice legislation. It was a [productive discussion](#) that captured the gravity of the moment and solidified our shared commitment to send strong legislation to the governor's desk.

Prior to that meeting, I formed a [Senate Working Group on Racial Justice](#), which will serve as the driving force behind our legislative approach. The advisory group, which has already met twice, is chaired by Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz, a member of the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus, and Senate President Pro Tempore William Brownsberger.



Senate President Karen Spilka joined elected leaders of color on Tuesday June, 2, 2020 for a press conference to honor and demand justice for the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery.

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I have tasked these Senators with reviewing current legislation, vetting new ideas and recommending action on policing tactics, such as use of force, and racial equity.

We are also working to combat racial disparities in our health-care system, which were dramatically exposed by the COVID-19 crisis. Earlier this month I was excited to see our efforts to establish a Diversity Task Force signed into law. The task force will make recommendations to the legislature to address health disparities for underserved and underrepresented populations. The law will also dramatically expand the amount of publicly available COVID-19 data.

I would like to thank you for continually holding me and other state leaders accountable as we move forward in this effort to create a more just and equal Commonwealth. I urge you to please continue to reach out, share your story and raise your voice.

Please don't hesitate to contact my office at Karen.Spilka@masenate.gov or calling 617-722-1500. For Senate news and updates, please subscribe to my [YouTube](#) channel for my weekly video messages or visit my website karenspilka.com.

Regards,

Karen

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen E. Spilka". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Senate President

Second Middlesex and Norfolk