



Georgia State  
Medical Association

## In Solidarity for Change to Dismantle Racism in the United States

The **Georgia State Medical Association, Inc.** stands firmly against the racism, health care disparities, and the senseless murder of Mr. George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota at the knee of the policeman, who has been charged with second degree murder.

As an organization, we call for approval and implementation of policies which will help eradicate police brutality and excessive force against African Americans. We believe that a change in the culture of policing needs to be nationwide. More training about implicit and explicit bias and about frank racial discrimination should be part of the core preparation for police officers who take an oath to serve and protect all Americans without regard to race.

The brutality and murder of George Floyd only underscore a criminal justice system that is overly militarized and has for centuries been responsible for unequal treatment of minority populations, especially targeting African American men. This one inhumane act has shined a bright light on systemic institutionalized racism that exists in our country that has led to inequities in education, housing, economics, and healthcare. These inequities permeate every aspect of American culture and are easy to recognize and have been well analyzed and documented. The tragic death of George Floyd should be a CALL TO ACTION for all men and women of human decency to demand structural change to eradicate centuries of institutional racism.

In addition, the prosecution process needs to be corrected to assure that people of color can expect juries that truly reflect their peers that ensure fair trial outcomes. Similarly, the four police officers who executed George Floyd should have a jury that contains a substantial number of African American jurors, representing their peers, to make certain that justice is served.

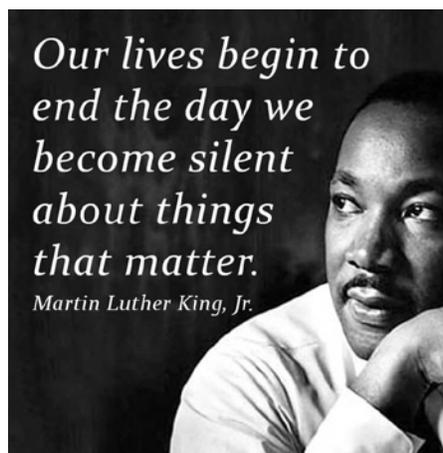
We know that the national protests occurring now may be the catalytic agent for transformative change for new and effective policies for the police work in the African American community.

We believe that the multiple social determinants of health are partially, inextricably connected to the policing in our community.

While our country is dealing with the coronavirus with the COVID-19 pandemic, the blatant display of the deliberate murder of Mr. George Floyd highlights again the immediate need for police reform.

Finally, let us reach out to our white brothers and sisters with empathy and sincere dialogue so that we broaden their awareness and engage their willingness to work for significant improvement of the treatment of African Americans in our society, and in the delivery of healthcare equity and access.

*Shelby R. Wilkes, M.D., MBA*  
*GSMA President*  
*2018-2020*



### **About Georgia State Medical Association (GSMA):**

GSMA is a collective voice actively representing African American physicians across the State of Georgia; a leading force advocating for our members in the importance of maintaining physician autonomy, health care access for all, and health care equity for our patients in the state. GSMA also seeks to elevate the professional success of members through information, education, advocacy, and networking opportunities. **[JOIN GSMA IN SUPPORT OF COMBATING RACISM](#)**

Founded in 1893, Georgia State Medical Association, Inc. (GSMA) is the state affiliate of the **[National Medical Association \(NMA\)](#)**.

GSMA is comprised of six (6) local affiliates across the state in **Albany** (Griffin-Jordan Medical Society of SW GA), **Atlanta** (Atlanta Medical Association), **Augusta** (Stoney Medical Society), **Columbus Ft. Benning** (Medical Society), **Macon** (Middle Georgia Medical Society), and **Savannah** (South Atlantic Medical Association).

Georgia is one of eight (8) states that comprise NMA Region III. NMA Region III consists of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee.

For more information about Georgia State Medical Association, Inc. (GSMA) contact Kimberly Williams, **[GSMA Executive Director](#)**