June 4, 2020

The Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association (MSHA) is deeply saddened and outraged by the recent events of racial prejudice, racial discrimination, violence, and deaths against Black men and women that have taken place. The violent deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Aubrey, and the racial prejudice against Christian Cooper, are just a few of the many cases against Black individuals. **MSHA supports and stands with Black men and women, and we oppose racism, discrimination, and violence of any kind against Black individuals. Simply put, Black Lives Matter.** MSHA would not be the organization it is today without the valuable contributions of our Black colleagues.

The mission of MSHA is to provide professional support and development, public awareness, and advocacy for professionals in communication sciences and disorders and the individuals they serve. MSHA is committed to diversity and inclusion and opposes any form of prejudice and discrimination. We support and stand with our members, colleagues, students, clients, and families who must endure inequality, prejudice, discrimination and violence on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, language, class, country of origin, and culture. Communication is a fundamental right of all people, and as speech-language pathologists and audiologists, we support and advocate for all voices to be heard and dignified.

Vicki R. Deal-Williams, M.A., CCC-SLP, Chief Staff Officer of Multicultural Affairs at ASHA, has written an article entitled, “Addressing Disparities in the Wake of Injustice, Violence, and COVID-19”, which can be found in the ASHA Leader Live (June 1, 2020). We encourage you to read this article, as it outlines key issues of disparities affecting our profession today, and steps we can take for progress and change.

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**Mission Statement:** The Mission of the Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association (MSHA) is to provide professional support and development, public awareness, and advocacy for professionals in communication sciences and disorders and the individuals they serve.