

May 31, 2020

RE: Letter of Support in a Time of Crisis

Dear NBLSA Family,

While a formal statement from the National Board is forthcoming, I write to you all now to echo the pain, anguish and disappointment that too many of us are experiencing right now. This week has been yet another public reminder of the perpetual disease of racism and violence that plagues our country and terrorizes our communities.

Again we are hurting. Again we are mourning. And again we must face a world in which we are expected to show up and perform no matter what. This is the unfair and unreasonable burden we bear; experiencing and enduring such fear and violence in a world that is too often deaf to our cries.

I write to say that I stand with you all in support and solidarity and empower each of you to take the steps that you need to heal and process this trauma.

The murders of **George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Sean Reed, Tony McDade** and too many more before them will not go unanswered.

For those seeking next steps such as action items and safe protesting practices, please feel free to use [these external resources](#) as a starting point.

As we strive to combat the abhorrent inequities of our country and make sense of our new reality in a "socially distant" world, please know that NBLSA stands beside you. We work in your service and your well-being is our priority.

With Love and In NBLSA Service,



Rachel E. Barnes

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