

Wilmington, Delaware  
June 4, 2020

**#4817**

**Sponsor:**

**President  
Shabazz**

**Co-Sponsor:**

**Council  
Member  
Johnson**

**WHEREAS**, the Equitable Data Collection and Disclosure on COVID–19 Act, sponsored by United States Representative Robin L. Kelly of Illinois, require the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to collect and report certain data concerning COVID–19; and

**WHEREAS**, as stated in the Bill, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID–19 a “Public Health Emergency of International Concern” on January 30, 2020. In the United States, cases of COVID–19 have quickly surpassed those across the world, and as of April 12, 2020, over 500,000 cases and 20,000 deaths have been reported in the United States alone; and

**WHEREAS**, the burden of morbidity and mortality in the United States has historically fallen disproportionately on marginalized communities. That is to say that historically, structures and systems, such as racism, ableism and class oppression, have rendered affected individuals more vulnerable to inequities and have prevented people from achieving their optimal health even when there is not a crisis of pandemic proportions; and

**WHEREAS**, communities of color experience higher rates of chronic disease and disabilities, such as diabetes, hypertension, and asthma, than non-Hispanic White communities, which predisposes them to greater risk of complications and mortality should they contract COVID–19; and

**WHEREAS**, communities of color are more likely to generally suffer as a result of lack of access to adequate healthcare, these communities are experiencing alarmingly higher incidences of COVID-19, nationwide and in the State of Delaware, than the majority population; and

**WHEREAS**, to illustrate this point, in the State of Delaware, according to the State website, <https://myhealthycommunity.dhss.delaware.gov/locations/state>, while Hispanic/Latino and Non-Hispanic/Black Delawareans constitute but a small fraction of the

state population, however, the incidence of positive incidents within those communities far surpasses those incidents among Non-Hispanic/White Delawareans; and

**WHEREAS**, the Equitable Data Collection and Disclosure on COVID-19 Act emphasizes that, without clear understanding of how COVID-19 impacts marginalized racial and ethnic communities, there will be exacerbated risk of endangering the most historically vulnerable of our Nation, and for that reason, Emergency Funding for Federal Data Collection on the Racial, Ethnic, and Other Demographic Disparities or COVID-19, has been recommended and should be considered by the United States Congress; and

**WHEREAS**, such Emergency Funding would make it possible for state and local agencies to conduct or support data collection on the racial, ethnic, and other demographic implications of COVID-19 in the United States and its territories, including support to assist in the capacity building for State and local public health departments to collect and transmit racial, ethnic, and other demographic data to the relevant Department of Health and Human Services agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, The City of Wilmington, Delaware is not only the largest city in the State of Delaware, but a City with over 50% of its permanent residents self-identifying as Black, Hispanic and as low-to-moderate income households. The operational shortfalls we will experience by virtue COVID-19 will have real, and possibly long-lasting effects on our City, and the resources afforded to our State agencies to do thorough data collection will be key to our efforts to address public health emergencies caused by COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, by raising our voices, Members of the 107<sup>th</sup> Session of the City Council of the City of Wilmington, Delaware raise our voices, along with leaders of municipalities across the country. We ask that you support H.R. 6585 and that you encourage your colleagues in Washington to do the same.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON** we ask that the United States Congress vote to pass the **EQUITABLE DATA COLLECTION AND DISCLOSURE ON COVID-19 ACT**, which requires that

data collection on racial, ethnic and other demographic implications of COVID-19 in the United States, including support to assist in the capacity building for state and local public health departments to collect and transmit racial, ethnic and other demographic data to the relevant department of health and human services agencies.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

**SYNOPSIS:** This Resolution ask that the United States Congress vote to pass the Equitable Data Collection and Disclosure on COVID-19 ACT, which requires that data collection on racial, ethnic and other demographic implications of COVID-19 in the United States, including support to assist in the capacity building for state and local public health departments to collect and transmit racial, ethnic and other demographic data to the relevant department of health and human services agencies.