

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 5, 2020

***Statement from TPCA CEO, Terri Sabella and TPCA Board President, Katina Beard
on Racial Justice and Equity***

(NASHVILLE, Tenn.) --Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. declared, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." As such, TPCA would like to clearly articulate its commitment to justice and equity, in healthcare and beyond.

TPCA's mission is to improve access to primary health care through leadership, advocacy, and support, as the voice of community health centers. Community health centers were born of the civil rights movement of the 1960's as an effort to address social injustice and inequity in healthcare. Community health centers were established as a safety net serving the nation's most vulnerable and underserved populations. While much has changed since those early days with Drs. Jack Geiger and Count Gibson in Mississippi, the community health center commitment to social justice and health equity has remained strong.

Recent events have reminded us that our work is far from done. While we have taken great leaps forward in medicine and health care technology, we have yet to find cures for racism, oppression, and violence. Our relatively recent acknowledgements of the role of social determinants is important in addressing the challenges presented by physical environment, and a lack of financial support or social infrastructure. However, these efforts will continue to fall short until we take the necessary steps to address systemic racism in American culture.

At TPCA we believe that the time for change is now! Active steps must be taken to ensure equity and justice for marginalized communities and communities of color. We know that our community health centers are mission driven to advance these causes as a healing force in their communities. As their membership organization we are ready to support these community health centers and their communities in word and deed.

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