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| |  | | --- | | **History is being written.**How we as Americans respond in the next few months and years to the deaths of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd and others will have an indelible impact on the social conscience of our country for generations.    We at **Disability:IN North Carolina** believe it is imperative that we speak out to condemn racism, elevate black voices, and stir our communities to action. In a world of diverse people and perspectives, we believe that sharing those perspectives and experiences is the first step toward understanding and action. In this spirit, Chauncy Barnhill, a black member of our Executive Board, has chosen to share his perspective on the last few weeks.    ﻿*“I'm a black man who has never broken any laws and who has family members who serve in law enforcement. Despite this, starting at the age of twelve I experienced several incidents where I was roughed up, detained, or searched by a member of law enforcement.  In each of those situations I feared for my life and was thankful that I survived the encounter. When viewing the footage of Mr. Floyd’s murder with my young sons, I was taken back to some of my personal encounters and wondered what if. More important, I was painfully reminded that my sons, both of whom are outstanding students, young men, and overall great kids, will likely experience the same systemic racism that I’ve had to endure. I fear nothing will truly change until more diverse individuals and organizations like Disability: IN speak out against systemic racism and support causes that positively impact the black community.  I am encouraged by the fact that Disability:IN North Carolina is willing to engage in the conversation and help lead a call to action.”*    We ask that everyone share their perspective and **have a tough conversation with friends, family, and strangers.** It is only through understanding each other and our lived experiences that we will be able to effect lasting change in our country and communities.    To take a first step toward action, the Board of **Directors of Disability:IN North Carolina will donate $846** to the **North Carolina Black Chamber of Commerce** for the 8 minutes and 46 seconds George Floyd suffered. **We ask that each of you who is able also donate $8.46**to the National Black Chamber of Commerce or another local organization to benefit our black communities.  **To our black colleagues, friends, neighbors, brothers, sisters, and more: You are heard. You are seen. The undersigned will stand with you.**    **Disability:IN North Carolina Board of Directors**    ·     Thomas Barth, Ph. D., Director of the Masters of Public Administration (MPA) program at UNC-Charlotte, Chairman  ·     Chauncy Barnhill, MBA Senior Vice President, Operations Area Manager, Wells Fargo, Vice Chairman  ·     Justin Francis, C.P.A, Sr. Director, Finance Business Partner, Chief Transformation Office, Equitable Treasurer  ·     Saima Cardwell, Supplier Diversity Specialist, SAS Institute, Inc.  ·     Matt Hempel, President/CEO, Agilitech Solutions, LLC (SV-DOBE)  ·     George Howe, III, Partner, Banking Capital Markets Advisory, EY  ·     Charles "Jameson" Knight, Diversity and Inclusion Specialist, Sr. Novant Health  ·     Timothy McClain, Global Technology and Operations, MetLife  ·     Rob Rusch, Tax Director, PWC  ·     Greg Young, C.P.M., CPSM, Senior Category Manager, Trane Technologies    **﻿Disability:IN North Carolina Staff**    ·     Beth Butler, Executive Director,  ·     Patricia K. Keul, Operations Director  ·     Celia Boone, Finance Manager  ·     Ken Boone, Strategic Communications Consultant | |