



## COALITION OF OKLAHOMA BREASTFEEDING ADVOCATES

### COBA Statement on Racial Injustice

There are no words to adequately describe the sense of loss and frustration felt throughout our country and communities. The Coalition of Oklahoma Breastfeeding Advocates (COBA) is deeply heartbroken by the cruel killings of Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and Breonna Taylor, among the many others who have long suffered from the consequences of systemic racism and inequality.

As parents, children, and siblings we grieve their senseless deaths, and commit to joining together to seek justice and equality. We firmly stand against all forms of oppression, and will continue to collaborate, partner, and engage to fully support families across life stages so our children can grow, develop and lead productive and healthy lives, free from violence and racism.

It is known that there are numerous barriers to women of color having healthy babies, yet we continue to lack safe birthing spaces and adequate health delivery systems for vulnerable populations. We also know social and racial injustices are significant contributing factors to the disparities we see in infant mortality and maternal morbidity in families of color. We cannot stand for this any longer. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said that “injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.... whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”

COBA’s guiding principles of respect and compassion are leading us to do better for the sake of our children and families. We commit to engaging in transparent discussions about diversity and inclusion with our COBA members, our funders, and our legislators, and understand that true change will take all of us.

With a commitment to reforming policies that disparately impact communities of color and to making a tangible difference in eradicating systemic racism, the Coalition of Oklahoma Breastfeeding Advocates is proud / to financially support the lifesaving programs at Equal Justice Initiative (EJI).

In support of Black lives everywhere,  
COBA Board of Directors and Staff

Promoting, Protecting, and Supporting Breastfeeding in Oklahoma

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