

## **Guidance on Peaceful Protests by Medical School Applicants**

*Adapted from the AAMC Guidance on Peaceful Protests by  
Medical Students and Residents - July 7, 2020*

The Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Accomplishing this outcome requires a diverse pool of medical school applicants and examining how we recruit, select, prepare and educate the next generation of physicians.

In 2020, our country witnessed civil, social, and political unrest following the publicized killings of unarmed Black men and women. In response, many current and aspiring physicians peacefully and lawfully protested against police brutality, structural racism, and other forms of systemic oppression, demonstrating the advocacy for humanity and commitment to equity and inclusion that are essential in our health care providers. Some aspiring physicians expressed concern that being arrested for protesting will impair their prospects for medical school or residency selection.

To ensure the safety of other students and patients, we conduct criminal background checks on accepted applicants. Some of these background checks include arrest history. At the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine, we ultimately make our own decisions about what we consider and value in the selection processes. We conduct a holistic review of each applicant that considers individuals in the context of their attributes and lived experiences in view of our mission. The AAMC has developed resources to assist schools and programs in doing so. We evaluate a protest-related arrest or conviction as we would any criminal history – and consider carefully all relevant facts and circumstances. An arrest or conviction associated with any peaceful protest is reviewed with caution. We consider the right to peaceful and lawful protest and the values that an individual applicant or student was advocating. We consider the spirit of an individual's advocacy in light of the principles and values our medical school seeks to cultivate in our students.

We encourage any applicant who has engaged, or plans to engage, in peaceful protest to follow basic safety guidelines and precautions. Take this opportunity as a student and aspiring health care professional to learn the implications of engaging in different types of protest and advocacy. Understand that you are applying to medical school and understand that the virtues associated with medicine (e.g. humility, compassion, accountability, ethics and humanism) should be adopted and upheld as an applicant. You are applying for the privilege of becoming a healthcare provider and you should uphold these virtues with your actions.

Racism is antithetical to the oaths and moral responsibilities we accept as health care professionals. We at the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine are committed to leading, joining and engaging in honest and open dialogue and action to address structural racism and other inequities in medical education, research and patient care.