

Personal Statement by ASEB and SSB Chairs, Alan Epstein and Margaret Kivelson

This nation is in the throes of multiple crises: a global pandemic, a resultant economic catastrophe for many Americans, and sadly, enduring racism and injustice. By the rules of the Academies, Academy boards do not issue findings or statements. Never the less, many on both Boards feel that something must be said. So, the chairs of the boards are speaking as individuals.

While community and social challenges are not typically the purview of science and technology panels, we, the chairs, feel that we cannot ignore these issues. *In the course of our committee responsibilities, we will be mindful of this context.* We claim no special knowledge or expertise on societal issues and have no magic solutions. We do know that we must work, both as individuals and together, to address injustice, to find new avenues to effect lasting change, and so seek to create a fair and equitable society.