

A Message from Scott Clements, OneSpan CEO and President

I am deeply concerned and saddened by this past week's events in Chicago and cities across our country. Peaceful protests against inequality, sparked by the killing of George Floyd and many others before, have in some cases turned destructive and violent partly due to genuine anger and frustration and partly due to provocation from those with destructive agendas. Long simmering issues have boiled over and they must be fundamentally addressed if we are to end the decades long cycle of poverty and human destruction. In our society, issues of race and economic fairness are inseparable. Neither can be addressed in isolation. I'd like to share some of my thoughts on these difficult matters.

Every family wants a better future for themselves and their children, but when some see that as an impossible dream because of their race or zip code, then we are all diminished spiritually, socially and economically. The needless killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Philando Castile, and many others, too often with impunity, create a sense of hopelessness and futility. When people don't believe the system is fair, they lose hope and eventually seek to change the system.

These problems have existed for decades and it will take many more years to fulfill America's founding promise that all are created equal and endowed with natural rights the foremost of which is to life. But we must be more impatient for progress to happen. Visible progress engenders hope and hope drives progress. None of us knows the exact path forward, but we can have a humble determination to learn and take part in making things better. When each of us individually take on the issues of race and economic fairness as our own issues, we can then expect and demand that our social, religious, and political leaders do the same. In times of change, leaders respond to the people, not the other way around. This is why access to voting for all of our citizens must be of the highest priority and an inviolable right.

As a country it will often be hard to agree on the exact priorities and approaches, but we can certainly agree on the goals of a fairer and more inclusive society and be relentless in the pursuit of those goals so that we leave a better and stronger democracy for future generations. Our country is flawed, but the founding promise of America remains a powerful vision that must be available to all, not the few.

As a company, OneSpan must do its part by maintaining an active commitment to workforce diversity and an inclusive culture because they are both right and good for our business. As individuals and as a company we should also look for opportunities to positively impact the communities we operate in as we are doing in response to the pandemic. We have already seen OneSpan employees join in peaceful protests and in the cleanup efforts following those protests. That is leadership of the best kind.

Best,

