

October 5, 2011

Dear Representative,

We write to urge you to co-sponsor **H.R. 2954 - the Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA) of 2011**, introduced on September 15, 2011 by Representative Barbara Lee along with Representative Donna Christensen and Representative Roybal-Allard. The Congressional Tri-Caucus (made up of the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus) has long championed this bill and we support their efforts in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress. We also want to thank you for your work and leadership on a host of issues important to the health and well-being of minority communities in the United States.

Last year, we celebrated the enactment of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the historic health reform law. Our communities stand to benefit from a number of the provisions of the law including immediate relief for many minority-owned small businesses through the small business health tax credit; improved access to health insurance for millions of individuals – particularly those with pre-existing conditions - through the insurance market reforms and the creation of new health insurance exchanges in 2014; the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) release of new draft standards for collecting and reporting on race, ethnicity, sex, primary language and disability status, as well as the Department's plans to begin collecting additional data on sexual orientation and gender identity; and Medicaid expansion.

In addition, the ACA put in place infrastructure to address disparities through the establishment of Offices of Minority Health in the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). CMS has begun to pave the way to improving the quality and value of our health care system through the creation of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation and the Federal Coordinated Health Care Office.

The Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2011 recognizes that additional steps must be taken to specifically address health care disparities and provides additional tools necessary to address and eliminate health and health care disparities experienced by minority and underserved communities. The HEAA focuses on ensuring that a full range of culturally and linguistically appropriate health care and public health services are available and accessible in every community, creates additional pipeline and training opportunities for minority-serving professional and allied health care workers, and incorporates strategies to address a range of disease-specific, mental and behavioral health issues facing minority communities.

We also support the provisions in the HEAA that seek to further eliminate existing access barriers to affordable health insurance coverage, promote investments in innovative health care delivery methods and technologies, and advance research and data collection about the health needs and outcomes of our communities. These are all important steps towards eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities, and creating a sustainable health care system that can pave the road to health equity.

As organizations committed to reducing racial and ethnic health disparities, including the subpopulations within communities of color that face multiple barriers due to factors such as

immigration status, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and limited English proficiency, we urge you to co-sponsor this important piece of legislation. The undersigned, many of whom have supported this legislation in the past, are ready to offer our expertise and networks to work with you to advance health equity. Please contact Priscilla Huang ([phu@apiahf.org](mailto:phu@apiahf.org)) with any with any questions.

Sincerely,

AARP

Adelphi University

AIDS Action Baltimore

AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts

AIDS Community Research Initiative of America

AIDS United

Alameda County Perinatal Hepatitis B Program

Alameda County Public Health

Alameda Health Consortium

Alliance for a Just Society

Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE)

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Counseling Association

American Heart Association/American Stroke Association

American Public Health Association

APIC

APICHA

ASIAC

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF)

Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center

Asian American Health Coalition HOPE Clinic

Asian American Justice Center, member of Asian American Center for Advancing Justice

Asian Center - Southeast Michigan

Asian Health Services

Asian Law Alliance

Asian Liver Center at Stanford University

Asian Pacific American Legal Center, member of Asian American Center for Advancing Justice

Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon

Asian Pacific Community in Action

Asian Pacific Liver Center

Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy and Leadership (APPEAL)

Asian Services In Action - Ohio

AsianWeek Foundation

Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations

Association of Black Cardiologists

Association of Minority Health Professions Schools

B Free CEED Coalition

Black Women's Health Imperative  
California Immigrant Policy Center  
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network  
California Partnership  
California Primary Care Association  
Caring Ambassadors Program  
Center for Immigrant Healthcare Justice  
Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY  
Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc.  
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers  
CETPA, Inc.  
CHOW Project  
Coalition for Asian American Children & Families  
Collaborative Center for Justice  
Commission on the Public's Health System  
Community Access National Network (CANN)  
Community Catalyst  
Community Legal Services, Inc.  
Community Organizations in Action  
Connecticut Legal Services  
Connecticut Multicultural Health Partnership  
Council on Social Work Education  
Digestive Disease National Coalition  
Disability Policy Consortium  
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund  
Earth Mama Healing, Inc  
Families USA  
Family Equality Council  
First Focus  
Frederick County Hepatitis Clinic, Inc.  
Gay & Lesbian Medical Association  
Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network  
Great Beginnings for Black Babies, Inc.  
Guam Communications Network  
Harm Reduction Coalition  
Health Law Advocates of Louisiana  
HealthHIV  
Healthy Kinder, Inc  
Hep C Connection  
Hepatitis B Foundation  
Hepatitis B Free Campaign Alameda County  
Hepatitis B Initiative of Washington, D.C.  
Hepatitis C Association

Hepatitis Outreach Network (HONE)  
Hmong National Development  
Houston Korean Nurse Association  
Human Rights Campaign  
Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition  
Immunization Action Coalition  
Institute for the Advancement of Multicultural & Minority Medicine  
Interpreting for America/AFSCME  
Interpreting for California/AFSCME  
ISAAC (Immigrant Support And Assistance Center)  
Japanese American Citizens League (JAACL)  
Kalusugan Coalition, Inc.  
La Fe Policy Research and Education Center  
Laotian American National Alliance, Inc. (LANA)  
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California  
Leeward Chuukese Immigrant Church  
Legal Services for Seniors  
LSA Family Health Service  
Madera Coalition for Community Justice  
Maryland Disability Law Center  
Maryland Hepatitis Coalition  
Men's Health Network  
Mexican American Unity Council, Inc.  
Midwest Asian Health Association (MAHA)  
Missouri Hepatitis C Alliance  
Movement is Life  
MQVN Community Development Corporation  
Nana's Wish  
Nashville CARES  
National AHEC Organization  
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD)  
National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum  
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Center for Health and The Aging  
National Center for Health in Public Housing  
National Center for Law and Economic Justice  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Coalition for LGBT Health  
National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians  
National Council of La Raza (NCLR)

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund  
National Health Law Program  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Korean American Service and Education Consortium  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health  
National Latino AIDS Action Network (NLAAN)  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Senior Citizens Law Center  
National Task Force on Hepatitis B, Focus on AAPI  
National Tongan American Society  
National Urban League  
National Women's Health Network  
New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty  
New Mexico Indian Council on Aging-Health Committee  
New Mexico Voices for Children  
New York Immigration Coalition  
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest  
New Yorkers for Accessible Health Coverage  
NICOS Chinese Health Coalition  
North American Management  
Northwest Health Law Advocates  
OneAmerica  
Out of Many, One  
Pacific Islander Cancer Survivors Network (PICSN)  
Pacific Islands Primary Care Association  
PFLAG National (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)  
Prevention Institute  
Project CHARGE  
Raising Women's Voices for the Health Care We Need  
Rockland Immigration Coalition  
Samoan National Nurses Association  
San Francisco AIDS Foundation  
San Francisco Hep B Free Campaign  
Senior Moments  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders  
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS)  
Shifa Clinic, Sugar Land, TX  
Sisters Together And Reaching, Inc. (STAR)  
Society for Women's Health Research  
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center

Status C Unknown  
Stewards Of Prophetic, Hopeful, Intentional, Action (SOPHIA)  
Stree level Health Project  
Summit Health Institute for Research and Education, Inc.  
The AIDS Institute  
The Bronx Health Link  
The CHOW Project  
The Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada  
The Transgender Law Center  
Total Health Care  
Trust for America's Health  
Utah Health Policy Project  
Vietnamese American Young Leaders Association of New Orleans (VAYLA)  
Vietnamese Student Association  
Voices for America's Children  
Volunteer Health Interpreters Organization  
Western Center on Law & Poverty  
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease  
YDI