

September 5, 2013

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Healthcare Task Force Chair  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus  
2330 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Barbara Lee  
Healthcare Task Force Co-Chair  
Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus  
2267 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Healthcare Task Force Vice-Chair  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus  
1319 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ami Bera, M.D.  
Healthcare Task Force Co-Chair  
Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus  
1408 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Donna Christensen, M.D.  
Health Braintrust Chair  
Congressional Black Caucus  
1510 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Roybal-Allard, Ruiz, Christensen, Lee, and Bera,

We write to thank you for your work and leadership to advance the health and well-being of communities of color in the United States and to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities. During the debate on health reform in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Congressional Tri-Caucus ensured that the voices of our communities were included in the Affordable Care Act (ACA). We fully support the provisions in this law that expand access to affordable health insurance coverage for those who are uninsured and underinsured, ensure quality in the delivery of care, advance research, and promote disease prevention in our communities. These are all important steps towards eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities and achieving health equity.

We are thankful for your continued leadership and commitment to developing legislation that builds on these advancements. We support the efforts of the Congressional Tri-Caucus, under the leadership of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Healthcare Task Force Chair Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard, to introduce the Health Equity and Accountability Act to the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress.

In the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, Representative Barbara Lee introduced H.R. 2954, the Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2011, which built upon the foundations of the Affordable Care Act to further eliminate health disparities for racial and ethnic minorities, and for the subpopulations that face additional barriers based on factors including, but not limited to, immigration status, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, and limited English proficiency by providing federal resources, policies, and infrastructure for health equity initiatives. H.R. 2954 established a principled, strategic, comprehensive vision for achieving health equity post-health reform, and has effectively complemented the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) historic health equity initiatives. For example, in August 2012, HHS announced the Reducing Cancer Among Women of Color App Challenge, an initiative to combat and prevent cancer among women of color, which reflects a key provision of H.R. 2954.

The Health Equity and Accountability Act continues to achieve broad support among health equity advocates, professional associations, and other groups working directly with communities of color. This Act provides a comprehensive roadmap to address the reality that communities of color disproportionately face chronic and infectious diseases and other healthcare-associated issues including costly emergency room visits, loss of productivity and functional ability, and unnecessary institutionalization and premature death due to substantial cultural, social, and economic barriers to obtaining quality health care. As organizations committed to reducing racial and ethnic health disparities and promoting health equity, we are ready to support your work in this endeavor.

The undersigned community organizations, national advocacy groups, professional organizations and research institutions, many of whom have supported this legislation in the past, are ready to offer our expertise and collaboration to advance the Health Equity and Accountability Act in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Thank you again for your leadership on these issues.

Sincerely,

### **National Organizations**

9to5

ADAP Advocacy Association (aaa+)

Advocates for Youth

AFSCME

AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families

AIDS Community Research Initiative of America (ACRIA)

AIDS United

Alliance for a Just Society

American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

American Association on Health and Disability

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM)

American College of Preventive Medicine

American Council on Exercise

American Diabetes Association

American Heart Association

American Kidney Fund

American Nurses Association

American Public Health Association

American Society on Aging

ANAC - Association of Nurse in AIDS Care

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF)

Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center

Asian Americans Advancing Justice-AAJC

Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations

Association of Black Cardiologists

Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (ARHP)

Association of University Centers on Disabilities

BellinghamFriends Meeting

Black Women's Health Imperative  
Breast Cancer Action  
Campaign for America's Future  
CANN - Community Access National Network  
Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities  
Catholic Health Initiatives  
Catholics for Choice  
Center for Popular Democracy  
Centering Healthcare Institute  
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers  
Childbirth Connection  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Refugee & Immigration Ministries  
Civil Liberties and Public Policy  
CommonHealth ACTION  
Community Action Partnership  
Community-Campus Partnerships for Health  
Council for Opportunity in Education  
Council on Social Work Education  
Democratic Socialists of America  
Dignity Health  
Direct Care Alliance  
Families USA  
Family Equality Council  
Feminist Majority  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
Forward Together  
Franciscans  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality  
Global Justice Institute  
Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart  
Health Care for America Now  
HealthHIV  
Hepatitis Appropriations Partnership  
Hepatitis B Foundation  
Hepatitis Foundation International  
Hispanic Dental Association (HDA)  
Hispanic Federation  
HIV Medicine Association  
HIV Prevention Justice Alliance  
Hmong National Development, Inc.  
Housing Works  
Human Rights Campaign  
International Union, United Auto Workers  
Khmer Health Advocates  
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, AFL-CIO  
Latino Commission on AIDS  
Law Students for Reproductive Justice

Mental Health America  
Metropolitan Community Churches  
Midwives Alliance of North America (MANA)  
MomsRising.org  
Morehouse School of Medicine  
Ms. Foundation for Women  
NAACP  
NAPAFASA  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Alliance for Mental Illness-NYC Metro Chapter  
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of CPMs  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc.  
National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network, Inc.  
National Center for Law and Economic Justice  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Coalition of STD Directors  
National Congress of American Indians  
National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care  
National Consumers League  
National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of La Raza (NCLR)  
National Education Association  
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association  
National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA)  
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund  
National Health Care for the Homeless Council  
National Health Law Program  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Indian Health Board  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health  
National Latino AIDS Action Network  
National Minority AIDS Council  
National Network of Abortion Funds  
National Organization for Women  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National REACH Coalition  
National Senior Citizens Law Center  
National Urban League  
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable  
National WIC Association  
National Women and AIDS Collective (NWAC)

National Women's Health Network  
National Women's Law Center  
Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Alliance  
OWL-The Voice of Midlife and Older Women  
Partners in Healthy Communities  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Pre-Health Dreamers  
Prevention Institute  
Project DOCC  
Project Inform  
Provincial Council of the Clerics of St. Viator (Viatorians)  
Raising Women's Voices for the Health Care We Need  
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice  
Reproductive Health Technologies Project  
RESULTS  
Salaam Legal Network and Citizen's Council for Human Rights  
SEIU 668  
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)  
Shape Up America!  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas  
Society for Public Health Education  
Society for the Analysis of African American Public Health Issues  
SocioEnergetics Foundation  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)  
Student National Medical Association  
Summit Health Institute for Research and Education, Inc.  
The Center for APA Women  
The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network  
The Trevor Project  
Trust for America's Health  
Unitarian Universalist Association  
Women's Law Project  
Women's Reproductive Rights Assistance Project  
YWCA USA

### **State and Local Organizations**

#### ***Alabama***

AIDS Alabama

#### ***Arizona***

Abortion Access Network of Arizona  
Concilio Latino de Salud, Inc.  
Wingspan

#### ***California***

AIDS Project Los Angeles  
Asian Law Alliance

California Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors  
California Center for Rural Policy  
California Immigrant Policy Center  
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice  
California National Organization for Women  
California Primary Care Association  
Children Now  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA)  
Community Action Partnership  
Community Health Councils  
HRC  
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California  
National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter  
Pacific Pride Foundation  
Religious Sisters of Charity  
Senior Moments  
South Los Angeles Health Projects  
St. Mary's Center, Oakland

***Colorado***

Colorado Consumer Health Initiative  
Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights  
Law Offices of Dominick M. Saia  
One Colorado  
Out Boulder  
SafeHouse Denver  
The Freedom Fund

***Connecticut***

Collaborative Center for Justice, Inc.  
FSW, Inc. CT  
Good Shepherd Child Development Center  
Witness Project of CT

***Delaware***

BaroMatrix, LLC  
Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families

***District of Columbia***

Emmaus Services for the Aging  
FALAM  
We Are Family Senior Outreach Network

***Florida***

Emergency Medical Assistance, Inc.  
Farmworker Association of Florida, Inc.  
Florida CHAIN  
Pridelines Youth Services

St. John AME Church  
The Pride Center

***Georgia***

Georgia Rural Urban Summit  
Hispanos en Vida  
Latin American Association  
Social Justice Guild, First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta

***Hawaii***

CHOW Project

***Idaho***

Lutheran Community Services Northwest

***Illinois***

AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
Griffin Center  
Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition  
Midwest Asian Health Association  
Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry  
Pax Christi Illinois  
Prologue, Inc.

***Louisiana***

Louisiana Housing Alliance

***Maryland***

AIDS Action Baltimore  
Maryland United for Peace and Justice  
Maryland Women's Coalition for Health Care Reform  
Moveable Feast  
Public Justice Center  
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, CHES Unit  
TEQUN-EquityNow

***Massachusetts***

Asian Women for Health  
Boston Public Health Commission  
Health Care For All Massachusetts  
Independent Living Center of the North Shore & Cape Ann, Inc.  
Institute on Child, Youth and Family Policy, The Heller School, Brandeis University  
North Shore Health Project  
The Latino Health Insurance Program, Inc.

***Michigan***

Paw Paw Housing Commission  
OutCenter

***Minnesota***

Church of St. Andrew  
Campaign for the Minnesota Health Plan  
Rainbow Health Initiative

***Missouri***

Kansas City Criminal Justice Taskforce

***Nebraska***

Grace Lutheran Church  
People's Coalition

***Nevada***

Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada  
Gender Justice Nevada

***New Jersey***

National Council of Jewish Women, NJ State Policy Advocacy Chapter  
New Jersey Abortion Access Fund  
RESULTS, Central NJ

***New Mexico***

HMS – Center for Health Innovation  
Southwest Women's Law Center

***New York***

African Services Committee  
Aminda Care  
Care for the Homeless  
Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY  
Citizen Action of New York  
Claire Huereuse Community Center, Inc.  
Coalition for Asian American Children & Families  
Coalition for Welfare Rights of NYC  
Commission on the Public's Health System  
Community Service Center of Greater Williamsburg  
Community Service Society of New York  
EAC Inc. Nutrition Education & Food Services  
Empire Justice Center  
Family Therapy Institute of Suffolk  
Gay Men's Health Crisis  
Health Care For All New York  
Hemophilia Association of New York, Inc.  
Kalusugan Coalition, Inc.  
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center  
Long Term Care Community Coalition  
Medicaid Matters New York



Nami April  
New York Abortion Access Fund  
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest  
New Yorkers for Accessible Health Coverage  
Project CHARGE  
Sisters of Social Service of Buffalo  
Staten Island LGBT Community Center  
Village Care  
Violence Intervention Program  
West Side Campaign Against Hunger  
YWCA of Binghamton and Broome County, Inc.

***North Carolina***

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) North Carolina  
North Carolina AIDS Action Network

***Ohio***

Asian Services in Action  
Asian-American Community Service Council  
Ohio Asian American Health Coalition  
Orrville Area United Way  
The Ohio State University

***Oklahoma***

Tulsa CARES

***Oregon***

Cascade AIDS Project  
Lutheran Community Services Northwest  
Northwest Patient Education Network  
ROSE Community Development

***Pennsylvania***

Family and Community Service of Delaware County  
Health Care For All Philadelphia  
LaDiva Dietitian!  
MANNA  
MaternityCare Coalition  
Media Area NAACP  
Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church  
PASILC  
Pennsylvania Council of Churches  
Planned Parenthood of Western Pennsylvania  
The Community at Holy Family Manor, Inc.

***Rhode Island***

Parent Support Network of Rhode Island

***Tennessee***

Caney Fork Headwaters Association  
Cornucopia Network/NJ/TN Chapter  
Cumberland Countians for Peace and Justice  
Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center  
Nashville CARES  
Network for Environmental & Economic Responsibility of United Church of Christ

***Texas***

Education Equals Making Community Connections  
Lesbian Health Initiative  
Senior Community Outreach Services

***Utah***

National Tongan American Society  
Utah Health Policy Project  
Utah Pride

***Vermont***

RU12? Community Center

***Virginia***

Virginia Organizing  
Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance

***Washington***

Economic Opportunity Institute  
Housing Authority of Skagit County  
La Roca of the First United Methodist Church of Wenatchee  
Lutheran Community Services Northwest  
OneAmerica  
the Ave Project  
WFSE/AFSCME Local 1671, Interpreters United

***West Virginia***

WV Citizen Action Group  
WV FREE  
YWCA Wheeling, WV

***Wisconsin***

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin  
Reproductive Justice Coalition  
Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health  
Wisconsin Council on Children & Families

**International Organizations**

Ministry of Health, Armenia