

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 111th 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 113th Congress.

In the 112th 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 113th 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 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
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 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
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

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