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 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