

July 24, 2014

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

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

**Re: Organizational Endorsement of the Health Equity & Accountability Act of 2014**

Dear Representatives Roybal-Allard, Christensen, and Lee,

As organizations committed to achieving health equity, we are writing to express our organizational support of the Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2014.

Since the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA) has provided a principled, comprehensive, and strategic plan to eliminate health disparities and improve the health of communities of color. HEAA of 2014 continues this tradition by providing federal resources, policies, and infrastructure to eliminate health disparities, with a focus on racial and ethnic minorities, and subpopulations that face additional barriers based on factors including, but not limited to, immigration status, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and English proficiency.

HEAA of 2014 builds on the advancements of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities. HEAA of 2014 retains new titles, first introduced in HEAA of 2011, to effectively bolster the gains for health equity achieved by the ACA. These titles include: data collection and reporting; culturally and linguistically appropriate health care; health workforce diversity; health care services; outcomes for women, children and families; mental health; high-impact minority diseases; health information technology; accountability and evaluation; and social determinants and environmental justice. HEAA of 2014 has been updated to reflect the latest, most comprehensive legislative approaches to achieving equity in health care access and outcomes for communities of color. For example, HEAA of 2014 contains provisions to support and leverage ongoing ACA implementation and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' historic health equity initiatives to maximize health disparities elimination.

Achieving health equity – the highest level of health for everyone – is a critical imperative for this country, not only because it is impossible to have a sustainable, cost-effective health care system

without it, but also because health equity is at the core of our nation's shared values of fairness, justice, and equal opportunity. As communities of color continue to face substantial cultural, social, and economic barriers to obtaining quality health care and achieving equitable health outcomes, and efforts to address these inequities have been limited by inadequate resources for funding, staffing, stewardship, and accountability, HEAA of 2014 plays a strategic role in advancing a federal legislative agenda for health equity.

We commend the Congressional Tri-Caucus and lead sponsor Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard for continued leadership in eliminating disparities and achieving health equity.

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 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

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  
Futures Without Violence  
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality  
Global Justice Institute  
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 American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association  
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 Lesbian Rights  
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  
National Working Positive Coalition  
Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Alliance  
OWL-The Voice of Women 40+

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  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles  
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  
Clinica Monsenor Oscar A Romero  
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.  
Connecticut Commission on Health Equity  
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



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  
CHOICES Memphis Center for Reproductive Health  
Cornucopia Network/NJ/TN Chapter  
Cumberland Countians for Peace and Justice  
Healthy and Free Tennessee

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  
Iglesia El Amor de Cristo of the Wenatchee First United Methodist Church  
Interpreters United, Local 1671/AFCSME Council 28 (WFSE)  
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  
Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin, BHCW  
CORE/El Centro  
Citizen Action of Wisconsin  
Reproductive Justice Collective  
Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health  
Wisconsin Council on Children & Families  
YWCA Southeast Wisconsin

**International Organizations**

Ministry of Health, Armenia

**Talking Points & Social Media Guide:  
The Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2014  
*Compiled by National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health  
for the HEAA Community Working Group***

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**This document contains:**

Overview of Legislation  
Questions & Answers  
Sample Tweets  
Comprehensive Talking Points

**Overview of Legislation**

Since the 108th Congress, **the Congressional Tri-Caucus, comprised of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC), has led introduction of the Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA) – comprehensive, broadly supported legislation to reduce ethnic and racial disparities in health care access and outcomes.**

Since its initial introduction, HEAA has provided a **principled, comprehensive, and strategic plan to eliminate health disparities** and improve the health of communities of color.

**On July 30, 2014 the Congressional Tri-Caucus and lead sponsor Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-40), Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Healthcare Task Force, will introduce the Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA) of 2014 to the 113th Congress.**

HEAA of 2014 **provides federal resources, policies, and infrastructure to eliminate health disparities, with a focus on racial and ethnic minorities, and subpopulations that face additional barriers** based on factors including, but not limited to, immigration status, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and English proficiency.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) represents the most significant legislative advancement for the health of communities of color in the last 40 years, and additional investments must be made in order to fully achieve health equity. **HEAA of 2014 builds on the gains for health disparities elimination achieved by the ACA and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) historic health equity initiatives** by directing additional resources for funding, staffing, stewardship, and accountability.

HEAA of 2014 retains new titles first incorporated in HEAA of 2011 to address a wide spectrum of health equity concerns, including: data collection and reporting; culturally and linguistically appropriate

health care; health workforce diversity; improvement of health care services; health outcomes for women, children, and families; mental health; high-impact minority diseases; health information technology; accountability and evaluation; and social determinants of health and environmental justice.

**HEAA of 2014 has been comprehensively updated** to reflect the latest, most comprehensive legislative approaches to achieving health equity. For example, HEAA of 2014 contains provisions to support and leverage ongoing ACA implementation and historic health equity initiatives at HHS to eliminate health disparities.

**HEAA commands broad support** from a diverse group of stakeholders committed to eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities and achieving health equity.

## Questions & Answers

### **1. Why introduce a comprehensive healthcare bill during this political and fiscal climate in Congress?**

- The Congressional Tri-Caucus believes achieving health equity must be a national priority.
  - Communities of color continue to face substantial cultural, social, and economic barriers to obtaining quality health care and achieving equitable health outcomes. These racial and ethnic health disparities take a dramatic toll on our society as a whole. A study by the Joint Center found that between 2003 and 2006, the cost of health inequities and premature death in the United States was \$1.24 trillion dollars.<sup>1</sup>
  - We applaud the tremendous achievements for health equity accomplished by the Affordable Care Act and the administration's continued commitment to eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities. Yet, we know that racial and ethnic health disparities will persist, and will continue to take a toll on our communities and country. As such, we need additional investments and the Congressional Tri-Caucus is pressing Congress to ensure our nation's healthcare system and approach to health addresses the needs of all.
- While communities of color stand together in advancing HEAA as a comprehensive agenda, HEAA has over the years informed other legislation and standalone provisions have been enacted.
  - Most notably, HEAA was critical in informing the Affordable Care Act's health disparities provisions, including the creation of the Offices of Minority Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services agencies, and the elevation of the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities at the National Institutes of Health to an Institute – the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities.

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<sup>1</sup> LaViest TA, Gaskin DJ, Richard P. The Economic Burden of Health Inequalities in the United States. Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. Available at <http://jointcenter.org/sites/default/files/Economic%20Burden%20of%20Health%20Inequalities%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf> > Accessed on July 25, 2014.

- HEAA has also informed the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' 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 HEAA of 2011 introduced by Congresswoman Barbara Lee and the Tri-Caucus.
  - When Congress is ready to act to make the necessary investments in health equity, the Health Equity and Accountability Act will be there to provide the comprehensive roadmap.
- 2. What is the cost of the Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2014? Has the bill been scored?**
- No cost score is available for HEAA of 2014 or for previous versions of HEAA. Estimates may be difficult to obtain given that HEAA of 2014 makes tremendous investments in preventive health and the Congressional Budget Office does not score the cost savings of preventive care.
- 3. Doesn't the Affordable Care Act (ACA) address the healthcare needs of communities of color? Why is this bill needed post-ACA?**
- The Affordable Care Act (ACA) represents the most significant legislative advancement for the health of communities of color in the last 40 years, and the ACA provides the foundation for all future health equity initiatives.
  - The historic gains of the ACA improve and extend insurance coverage to millions of Americans, end pre-existing condition exclusions, lift lifetime caps on care, cover clinical preventive costs, and increase investments in public health and community-level prevention initiatives.
  - The ACA includes a number of provisions to reduce health disparities, yet disparities will persist and additional investments must be made in order to fully achieve health equity.
  - HEAA of 2014 builds on the gains for health disparities elimination achieved by the ACA and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) historic health equity initiatives by directing additional resources for funding, staffing, stewardship, and accountability.

### Sample Tweets

#### Hashtags

**#HEAA2014**

**#HealthEquity**

#### Important Twitter Handles

Congressional Hispanic Caucus: [@HispanicCaucus](https://twitter.com/HispanicCaucus)

- Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, Lead Sponsor/CHC Healthcare Task Force Chair: [@RepRoybalAllard](https://twitter.com/RepRoybalAllard)

Congressional Black Caucus: [@OfficialCBC](https://twitter.com/OfficialCBC)

- Rep. Donna Christensen, CBC Health Braintrust Chair: [@DelegateDonna](https://twitter.com/DelegateDonna)

Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus: [@CAPAC](https://twitter.com/CAPAC)

- Rep. Barbara Lee, CAPAC Health Task Force Co-Chair: [@RepBarbaraLee](https://twitter.com/RepBarbaraLee)

## Values-based Messages

- RT if you support #HealthEquity for all! #HEAA2014
- The #ACA is improving #healthcare access n outcomes 4 communities of color; let's build on gains 2 achieve #HealthEquity w #HEAA2014!
- Since 2003 #HEAA has provided a principled, comprehensive legislative agenda 4 #HealthEquity! #HEAA2014 continues this tradition!
- Thank you 2 Congressional Tri-Caucus @HispanicCaucus @OfficialCBC @CAPAC for leading charge 4 #HealthEquity in Congress! #HEAA2014
- It's time for us to live our values by making #HealthEquity a reality for everyone. #HEAA2014 will do just that.
- Equal access to #healthcare isn't a privilege; it's a basic human right! #HEAA2014 will help make true #HealthEquity possible in the U.S.
- #HealthEquity will make our families, communities, & country stronger! Time 4 Congress to support #HEAA2014!

## Bill Introduction Messages

- Special thanks to #poderosa @RepRoybalAllard & Congressional Tri-Caucus @HispanicCaucus @OfficialCBC @CAPAC 4 sponsoring #HEAA 2014!
- .@RepRoybalAllard is a true champion of #HealthEquity for all! Thanks for sponsoring #HEAA2014 & supporting our communities!
- Today @RepRoybalAllard @DelegateDonna @RepBarbaraLee @HispanicCaucus @OfficialCBC @CAPAC will intro #HEAA2014 2 promote #HealthEquity 4 all!
- Today @RepRoybalAllard @DelegateDonna @RepBarbaraLee introduced #HEAA2014! Share why u are thankful for their support of #HealthEquity!
- Do you support #HealthEquity for all? Tell your Congressperson to support #HEAA2014!

## Comprehensive Talking Points

### **Background: History, Vision, & Strategic Role of the Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA)**

- Since the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Congressional Tri-Caucus, comprised of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC), has led introduction of the Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA) – comprehensive, broadly-supported legislation to reduce ethnic and racial disparities in health care access and outcomes.
- Since its initial introduction, HEAA has provided a principled, comprehensive, and strategic plan to eliminate health disparities and improve the health of communities of color.
- On July 30, 2014 the Congressional Tri-Caucus and lead sponsor Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-40), Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Healthcare Task Force, will introduce the Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA) of 2014 to the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress.
- Nearly 350 national, state, and local organizations have endorsed HEAA of 2014.

## **What is the Goal of HEAA?**

- While national demographics are rapidly changing and the population of racial and ethnic minorities is expected to increase over the next few decades, communities of color continue to face substantial cultural, social, and economic barriers to obtaining quality health care and achieving equitable health outcomes, and experience poorer health statuses than their counterparts.
- Efforts to improve the health of communities of color have been limited by inadequate resources for funding, staffing, stewardship, and accountability.
- HEAA of 2014 provides federal resources, policies, and infrastructure to eliminate health disparities, with a focus on racial and ethnic minorities, and subpopulations that face additional barriers based on factors including, but not limited to, immigration status, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and English proficiency.
- Achieving health equity – the highest level of health for everyone – is a critical imperative for this country, not only because it is impossible to have a sustainable, cost-effective health care system without, but also because health equity is at the core of our nation’s shared values of fairness, justice, and equal opportunity.

## **Building on the Advancements of the Affordable Care Act (ACA)**

- Health care advocates across the country applauded the passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) as an enormous accomplishment in the national effort to increase access to affordable, high-quality care for all. The ACA represents the most significant legislative advancement for the health of communities of color in the last 40 years.
- Together with the ACA, President Obama and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) have taken additional steps to ensure that health equity is a national priority.
  - Under the leadership of Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, HHS has developed the National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities, Healthy People 2020, the National Prevention Strategy, and the National Stakeholder Strategy for Achieving Health Equity, strategic plans that represent the country’s first coordinated roadmap to reducing health disparities.
  - Additionally, the National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS) along with the enhanced National Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards illustrate the commitment of HHS to prioritizing the elimination of racial and ethnic health disparities.
- The historic gains of the ACA improve and extend insurance coverage to millions of Americans, end pre-existing condition exclusions, lift lifetime caps on care, cover clinical preventive costs, and increase investments in public health and community-level prevention initiatives.
- The ACA includes a number of provisions to reduce health disparities, and additional investments must be made in order to fully achieve health equity. HEAA of 2014 builds on the gains for health disparities elimination achieved by the ACA and HHS’s historic health equity initiatives by directing additional resources for funding, staffing, stewardship, and accountability.

## Scope of HEAA

Starting in 2011, HEAA (H.R. 2954) incorporated new titles to effectively build upon the gains for health disparities elimination achieved by the ACA. These new titles are retained in HEAA of 2014. HEAA is now comprised of ten titles addressing a wide spectrum of health equity concerns:

- **Title I: Data Collection and Reporting**—Seeks to increase the precision, accuracy, and number of resources for the collection and reporting of health data.
- **Title II: Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Health Care**—Ensures patient access to high-quality care by enhancing language access services and culturally competent care in the health care delivery system.
- **Title III: Health Workforce Diversity**—Creates a pipeline and new training opportunities for professional and allied health care workers that will allow them to more effectively serve communities of color.
- **Title IV: Improvement of Health Care Services**—Removes barriers to health insurance coverage and services while maximizing the positive impact of federal health care investments in communities of color.
- **Title V: Improving Health Outcomes for Women, Children, and Families**—Addresses certain health disparities faced by women and children, and promotes programs supporting healthy family formation.
- **Title VI: Mental Health**—Incorporates strategies to address mental health and substance abuse treatment affecting communities of color.
- **Title VII: Addressing High Impact Minority Diseases** —Proposes focused approaches to combat diseases and conditions that have a disparate impact on racial and ethnic minorities, such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and HIV/AIDS.
- **Title VIII: Health Information Technology**—Ensures that underserved communities and communities of color benefit from rapid advances in health information technology (HIT) and new investments in HIT infrastructure that serve as the foundation for improving quality, efficiency, and outcomes as our health care system advances.
- **Title IX: Accountability and Evaluation**—Strengthens HHS oversight to ensure programs continue to reduce health disparities.
- **Title X: Addressing Social Determinants & Improving Environmental Justice**— Extends policies and programs beyond individual pathways to address the unequal distribution of the social determinants of health as the root causes of health disparities.

## HEAA of 2014

- HEAA of 2014 has been comprehensively updated to reflect the latest, most comprehensive legislative approaches to achieving health equity.
- For example, HEAA of 2014 contains provisions to support and leverage ongoing ACA implementation and the HHS's historic health equity initiatives to maximize health disparities elimination.



### **HEAA Commands Broad Support**

- Health equity advocates, scholars and researchers, provider groups and associations, other professional groups, and organizations representing communities of color have strongly supported HEAA in previous Congresses.
- Over 300 of these groups comprise the HEAA Community Working Group dedicated to eliminating health disparities and supporting the solutions advanced in HEAA.
- Nearly 350 national, state, and local organizations have endorsed HEAA of 2014.

**Subject:** Briefing to announce Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA) of 2014



**EMBARGOED UNTIL 1:30 p.m., EST JULY 30, 2014**

July 29, 2014

Contact: Loretta Kane, [lk@caminopr.org](mailto:lk@caminopr.org)/917-410-7242

**ADVISORY: Press briefing to announce the introduction of the Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA) of 2014**

*Comprehensive, broadly supported legislation by Congressional Tri-Caucus eliminates racial and ethnic health disparities, advances health equity*

**WHAT:** Press briefing to announce introduction of the Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2014 by the Congressional Tri-Caucus (comprised of the Congressional Hispanic, Asian Pacific American, and Black Caucuses) and lead sponsor Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-40), the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Health Task Force Chair.

**WHY IT MATTERS:** The Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA) of 2014 is broadly supported – by more than 350 organizations and the Congressional Tri-Caucus – and strategic legislation to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities in healthcare access and outcomes. HEAA of 2014 builds on the gains for health equity achieved by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and reflects the latest, most comprehensive approaches to health disparities elimination within minority communities.

**SPEAKERS:**

U.S. Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-40), Congressional Hispanic Caucus Health Task Force chair, lead sponsor of HEAA of 2014

U.S. Rep. Barbara Lee (CA-13), Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus Healthcare Task Force chair (*INVITED*)

U.S. Rep. Donna Christensen (D-VI), Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust chair (*INVITED*)

Jessica González-Rojas, executive director, National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health

Hilary O. Shelton, director, NAACP Washington Bureau and senior vice president for Advocacy and Policy

Priscilla Huang, policy director, Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum

**WHEN and WHERE: 1:30 p.m., July 30, via phone. Dial-in: 800-950-1454**

**INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE:** All speakers, and Spanish speaking spokespeople, will be available for interview.

## **SPEAKER TOPICS:**

- **Reps. Roybal-Allard and Lee:** The introduction and need for HEAA of 2014.
- **González-Rojas:** The strategic role of HEAA of 2014 and impact on Latinos/as.
- **Shelton:** The importance of HEAA of 2014 in eliminating health disparities for African Americans and broad-based community support.
- **Huang:** How HEAA of 2014 advances health equity for Asian and Pacific Islander American communities and key subpopulations.

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*[The National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health](#) is the only national reproductive justice organization dedicated to building Latina power to advance health, dignity, and justice for 26 million Latinas, their families, and communities in the United States through leadership development, community mobilization, policy advocacy, and strategic communications.*