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 108th 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 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
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.¹
     - 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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For more information, please contact Natalie Camastra at natalie@latinainstitute.org
o 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
• Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, Lead Sponsor/CHC Healthcare Task Force Chair: @RepRoybalAllard
Congressional Black Caucus: @OfficialCBC
• Rep. Donna Christensen, CBC Health Braintrust Chair: @DelegateDonna
Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus: @CAPAC
• Rep. Barbara Lee, CAPAC Health Task Force Co-Chair: @RepBarbaraLee

For more information, please contact Natalie Camastra at natalie@latinainstitute.org
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 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.
- 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.

For more information, please contact Natalie Camastra at natalie@latinainstitute.org
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/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. 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:

- **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.