

May 15, 2018

The Honorable Mazie Hirono
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC
Washington DC 20510

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

The Honorable Ami Bera
Health Task Force Co-Chair
Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus
1431 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robin Kelly
Health Braintrust Chair
Congressional Black Caucus
1239 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham
Health Task Force Co-Chair
Congressional Hispanic Caucus
214 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Re: Organizational Endorsement of the Health Equity & Accountability Act of 2018

Dear Health Leaders of the Congressional Tri-Caucus:

As organizations committed to achieving health equity, we write to express our organizational support for the Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2018.

Since the 108th Congress, the Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA) has provided a comprehensive and strategic legislative approach to eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities and achieving health equity. Understanding that our communities hold multiple identities, HEAA addresses the intersections of race and ethnicity with age, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, language, immigration status, and socio-economic status. This approach ensures that federal efforts to end health disparities address the numerous factors that may impede a person's access to care. HEAA provides federal resources, funding, and policy changes, as well as the infrastructure necessary to improve access to quality care and improve health outcomes for communities of color and other underserved populations.

HEAA 2018 is comprised of the following titles that include provisions to address the wide spectrum of inequities that persist in health care access, quality, and outcomes.

These titles are:

1. Data collection and reporting;

2. Culturally and linguistically appropriate health care;
3. Health workforce diversity;
4. Improving health care access and quality
5. Improving health outcomes for women, children and families;
6. Mental health;
7. Addressing high-impact minority diseases;
8. Health information technology;
9. Accountability and evaluation; and
10. Social determinants and environmental justice.

This year's reintroduction of HEAA is particularly important as we both defend health care gains while simultaneously working to address the vast gaps that remain. Communities of color continue to experience severe health disparities and as a result, poorer health outcomes. As this country continues to face numerous social and political challenges, HEAA stands as a solution that commands broad support. Over 300 groups comprise the HEAA Community Working Group dedicated to supporting the solutions advanced in HEAA. It is imperative that we work together to help eliminate the significant social, cultural, physical, and economic barriers that continue to impede communities of color and others from obtaining affordable, quality care. HEAA 2018 builds on the progress of the Affordable Care Act by providing additional investments to create a sustainable, cost-effective health care system that is rooted in fairness, justice, and equal opportunity.

We thank you for your leadership and steadfast commitment to achieving health equity for all.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
1,000 Days
9to5, National Association of Working Women
Academy of Integrative Health and Medicine
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
AcademyHealth
Action on Smoking and Health
ADAP Advocacy Association
Advocates for Youth
African American Ministers In Action
Aging Life Care Association
AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families
AIDS United

American Academy of HIV Medicine
American Academy of Nursing
American Association of Birth Centers
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association on Health and Disability
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Gastroenterological Association
American Heart Association
American Holistic Nurses Credentialing Corporation
American Institute of Homeopathy
American Kidney Fund
American Medical Student Association
American Muslim Health Professionals
American Nurses Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society of Hematology
American Thoracic Society
APALA
Asian & Pacific Islander Caucus for Public Health
Asian Americans Advancing Justice
Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy and Leadership (APPEAL)
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations
Association of Black Cardiologists
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (ARHP)
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)
Black Women's Health Imperative
Boat People SOS.,INC
Breast Cancer Action
CAEAR Coalition
Cancer Support Community
Caring Across Generations
Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Center for Medicare Advocacy
Center for Urban and Racial Equity
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers

Coalition for Disability Health Equity
Coalition on Human Needs
COFA Alliance National Network
CommonHealth ACTION
Community Access National Network
Community Catalyst
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces
dfusion Inc.
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)
Doctors for America
ETR
Families USA
Family Voices
Farley Health Policy Center
Farmworker Justice
Feminist Majority Foundation
First Focus Campaign for Children
Foundation For Living Medicine
Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance (GLAA)
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality
Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
Harm Reduction Coalition
Health Care for America Now
Hep B United
Hepatitis B Foundation
Hispanic Federation
HIV Dental Alliance
If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice
Immunization Action Coalition
Impact4Health
In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda
Integrative Health Policy Consortium
Integrative Medicine for the Underserved
Islamic Society of North America
Jacobs Institute of Women's Health
Japanese American Citizens League
Justice in Aging
Khmer Health Advocates, Inc
Lakeshore Foundation

Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
Latino Commission on AIDS
LatinosAgainstAlzheimer's Network
Mental Health America
MomsRising
NAACP
NAPAFASA
NARAL Pro-Choice America
NASTAD
National Abortion Federation
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)
National Asian Pacific Island Center on Aging
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of County Behavioral Health and Disability Directors
National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives
National Association of Hispanic Healthcare Executives
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
National Association of Latino Healthcare Executives
National Association of Social Workers
National Black Justice Coalition
National Black Nurses Association
National Black Women's HIV / AIDS Network, Inc
National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network
National Center for Homeopathy
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Collaborative for Health Equity
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 Health Care for the Homeless Council

National Health Law Program
National Healthy Start Association
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Immigration Law Center
National Institute for Reproductive Health (NIRH)
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Latino Behavioral Health Association
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
National Medical Association
National Minority Quality Forum
National Network of Abortion Funds
National Organization for Women
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Patient Advocate Foundation
National REACH Coalition
National Task Force on Hepatitis B Focus on Asian and Pacific Islander Americans
National Urban League
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable
National WIC Association
National Women's Health Network
National Women's Law Center
National Working Positive Coalition
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
NMAC
Papa Ola Lōkahi
People For the American Way
PFLAG National
Physicians for Reproductive Health
PIVOT (Progressive Vietnamese American Organization)
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Power to Decide
Prevention Institute
Public Health Institute
Reproductive Health Access Project
RESULTS
RTI International
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS)
SIKH AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND

Sleep Research Society
Society for Public Health Education
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)
South Asian Bar Association of North America - Health Law Section
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth (SAFY)
Starship Health Technologies, LLC
Summit Health Institute for Research and Education, Inc.
The AIDS Institute
The Center for American Progress
The Children's Partnership
The Disparities Solutions Center at Massachusetts General Hospital
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
The National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)
The Praxis Project
The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Transgender Law Center
Treatment Action Group
Trust for America's Health
UnidosUS
Union for Reform Judaism
United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society
UNITED SIKHS
United States Hispanic Leadership Institute
World Education Services (WES)
Young Invincibles
YWCA USA

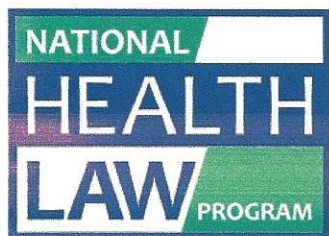
State and Local Organizations

AIDS Alabama - Alabama
Alaska Children's Trust - Alaska
Asian Pacific Community in Action - Arizona
Arkansas Coalition of Marshallese - Arkansas
AIDS Project Los Angeles - California
Alinea Medical Imaging - California
Asian Health Services - California
Asian Law Alliance - California
California Center for Rural Policy - California

California Pan-Ethnic Health Network - California
Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative (CVIIC) - California
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) - California
Equality California - California
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley - California
San Francisco Community Health Center - California
Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network (SIREN) - California
Taulama for Tongans - California
Liver Health Connection - Colorado
The Consortium - Colorado
Connecticut Coalition Of Mutual Assistance Associations - Connecticut
Health & Technology Vector, Inc. - Connecticut
Whitman-Walker Health - District of Columbia
Florida Policy Institute - Florida
Center for Pan Asian Community Services, Inc. (CPACS) - Georgia
Morehouse School of Medicine - Georgia
Vietnamese American Community of Georgia - Georgia
Hep Free Hawaii - Hawaii
Kokua Kalihi Valley - Hawaii
Lana'i Community Health Center - Hawaii
Maui AIDS Foundation - Hawaii
Waikiki Health - Hawaii
Waimanalo Health Center - Hawaii
We Are Oceania - Hawaii
AIDS Foundation of Chicago - Illinois
Asian Health Coalition - Illinois
EverThrive Illinois - Illinois
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights - Illinois
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights - Illinois
Legal Council for Health Justice - Illinois
Medical Organization for Latino Advancement - Illinois
Midwest Asian Health Association (MAHA) - Illinois
The Center for Asian Health Equity - Illinois
MQVN Community Development Corporation - Louisiana
NOELA Community Health Center - Louisiana
Tulane University Mary Amelia Women's Center - Louisiana
Consumer Health First - Maryland
Public Justice Center - Maryland
Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center - Massachusetts
Boston Public Health Commission - Massachusetts

Center for Civil Justice - Michigan
Healthy Asian Americans Project (HAAP) - Michigan
Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health (MOASH) - Michigan
The OutCenter of Southwest Michigan - Michigan
West Michigan Asian American Association - Michigan
Asian Media Access - Minnesota
HAP - Minnesota
Impetus - Let's Get Started LLC - Minnesota
Lao Assistance Center of Minneosota - Minnesota
Steps Coalition - Mississippi
Teen Health Mississippi - Mississippi
Asian Community Development Council - Nevada
UNLV Service Learning for Community Engagement in Sociology - Nevada
New Mexico Asian Family Center - New Mexico
Southwest Center for Health Innovation - New Mexico
Bailey House, Inc. - New York
Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY - New York
Chinese-American Planning Council - New York
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families - New York
Homeopathic Medical Society of the State of New York - New York
Kalusugan Coalition, Inc. - New York
Korean Community Services of Metropolitan NY - New York
New Yorkers for Accessible Health Coverage - New York
Equality North Carolina - North Carolina
MAG Properties - North Carolina
North Carolina Council of Churches - North Carolina
Asian Services In Action - Ohio
Ohio Asian American Health Coalition - Ohio
Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio - Ohio
Adelante Mujeres - Oregon
APANO (Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon) - Oregon
Cascade AIDS Project - Oregon
Familias en Accion - Oregon
Oregon Compact Of Free Association Project - Oregon
Project Access NOW - Oregon
Grow Philly - Pennsylvania
Hepatitis C Allies of Philadelphia (HepCAP) - Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Health Law Project - Pennsylvania
SEAMAAC, Inc. (Southeast Asian Mutual Assistance Associations Coalition) - Pennsylvania
South Carolina Appleaseed Legal Justice Center - South Carolina

Meharry Medical College - Tennessee
Tennessee Justice Center - Tennessee
Asian American Health Coalitions dba HOPE Clinic - Texas
Light and Salt Association - Texas
National Tongan American Society - Utah
Utah Pacific Islander Civic Engagement Coalition - Utah
Rights and Democracy - Vermont
Virginia Poverty Law Center - Virginia
Children's Alliance - Washington
Hepatitis Education Project - Washington
IDIC Filipino Senior & Family Services - Washington
International Community Health Services - Washington
NORTHWEST HEALTH LAW ADVOCATES - Washington
Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health - Wisconsin

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November 30, 2018

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Senators Introduce Bill to Eliminate Racial, Ethnic Health Care Disparities

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Communities of Color and Other Underserved Communities Have Long Experienced Negative Health Outcomes Compared to Whites

RELEASE: Nov. 29, 2018 **CONTACT:** Jeremy Leaming, leaming@healthlaw.org

Washington – Against a backdrop of increasing overt racial discrimination in the United States, Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) introduced the Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA) of 2018 (S.3660) to address and eliminate health care disparities experienced by communities of color and other underserved communities. Rep. Barbara Lee (CA-13) joined by 67 cosponsors introduced the bill's House counterpart (H.R. 5942) on behalf of the Congressional Tri-Caucus in May. The National Health Law Program serves on the HEAA Community Working Group, and calls on Congress to pass this legislation.

"We are grateful for the leadership of Senator Hirono, Congresswoman Lee, and the Congressional Tri-Caucus on this bill. Massive health disparities fester in our country, affecting people who have systematically been denied health care because of race, ethnicity, immigration status, gender, age, mental health, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity," said National Health Law Program Executive Director [Elizabeth G. Taylor](https://healthlaw.org/news/congressional-tri-caucuses-introduce-legislation-to-eliminate-racial-and-ethnic-health-care-disparities/about/staff/221-elizabeth-taylor) (<https://healthlaw.org/news/congressional-tri-caucuses-introduce-legislation-to-eliminate-racial-and-ethnic-health-care-disparities/about/staff/221-elizabeth-taylor>). "At a time when our country

is being pulled backwards with discriminatory and anti-immigrant rhetoric and policies, this bill offers both a vision for and concrete steps toward health equity. We are delighted to support this bill.”

Communities of color and other historically underserved groups have long faced substantial barriers to health care, including discrimination. These historic trends, combined with the rise of political white nationalism, means that millions of individuals and families in the U.S. remain unable to achieve equitable health outcomes. Efforts to improve health and the delivery of care, even as part of a national law, such as the Affordable Care Act (ACA), are undermined by inadequate funding, staffing, stewardship, and accountability.



“The Health Equity and Accountability Act promises to address and reduce health care disparities by building upon the ACA’s success by providing additional tools across the health care system,” says Staff Attorney [Candace Gibson](https://healthlaw.org/news/congressional-tri-caucuses-introduce-legislation-to-eliminate-racial-and-ethnic-health-care-disparities/about/staff/556-candacegibson) (<https://healthlaw.org/news/congressional-tri-caucuses-introduce-legislation-to-eliminate-racial-and-ethnic-health-care-disparities/about/staff/556-candacegibson>). “HEAA’s strength comes from its multipronged approach. It seeks to remove existing barriers to health care, pioneer innovative health delivery methods, and increase funding for research looking at the health needs of marginalized communities. Importantly, HEAA provides funding and resources to improve reproductive and maternal health care for youth and women of color. The measure also supports culturally and linguistically competent services.”

Please contact National Health Law Program Director of Communications [Jeremy Leaming](mailto:leaming@healthlaw.org) (<mailto:leaming@healthlaw.org>) or Communications Associate [Andy DiAntonio](https://healthlaw.org/team/andy-diantonio/) (<https://healthlaw.org/team/andy-diantonio/>) for further comment from Taylor or Gibson on the Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2018.

National Health Law Program (<https://healthlaw.org>), founded in 1969, advocates for the rights of low-income and underserved people to access quality health care.

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