

July 7, 2009

The Honorable George Miller  
Chairman  
Committee on Education and Labor  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Rangel  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Miller, Rangel, and Waxman:

We are writing in support of the *Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2009* and its inclusion in the final health reform legislation. As you and your colleagues continue to work on health reform legislation, the undersigned coalitions, groups, and organizations urge you to strengthen the commitment to addressing health inequities and make certain that health and health care disparities reduction and elimination is prioritized.

Health disparities, which exist along the lines not only of race and ethnicity, but also gender, gender identity, disability, geography, sexual orientation, national origin, and socioeconomics, have a direct and detrimental impact on the health care, health outcomes, and thus, well-being of millions of people in our country. We envision health reform legislation that ensures equity and accountability. The *Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2009* provides the best opportunity for individuals affected by health disparities to access comprehensive as well as culturally and linguistically appropriate health care and public health services, and to achieve positive health outcomes.

Comprehensive health reform is essential to improving health across the lifespan of populations and communities that suffer from health disparities and barriers to health care and public health services. Therefore, we urge you to include the *Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2009* in health reform legislation.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your leadership and commitment to eliminating health disparities. We look forward to working with you to secure passage of health reform legislation that includes the *Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2009* to ensure that all populations affected by health and health care disparities have access to quality health care and experience optimal health.

We would also like to thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request and offer our assistance in addressing this critical issue. Please contact Daniel E. Dawes, J.D., at (202) 682-5110 or [ddawes@apa.org](mailto:ddawes@apa.org), if you would like any additional information.

Sincerely,

Adventist HealthCare  
Advocates for Youth  
Aetna  
AIDS Action Council  
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
American Academy of Physician Assistants  
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American Association of Pastoral Counselors  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American Counseling Association  
American Diabetes Association  
American Group Psychotherapy Association  
American Heart Association/American Stroke Association  
American Medical Student Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Psychotherapy Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Social Health Association  
Amputee Coalition of America  
Anxiety Disorders Association of America  
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Asian American Justice Center  
Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare  
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations  
Association of Clinicians for the Underserved (ACU)  
Association of Professional Chaplains  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)  
Autism Society of America  
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
CAEAR Coalition  
CAEAR Foundation  
California Center for Public Health Advocacy (CCPHA)  
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network  
CANN - Community Access National Network  
Center for Integrated Behavioral Health Policy  
CHADD – Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder  
Child Welfare League of America  
Clinical Social Work Association  
Community Health Councils  
Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project, CHAMP  
Council of Schools and Programs of Professional Psychology (NCSPP)  
Summit Health Institute for Research and Education  
Asian Pacific Islander Caucus in official relations with APHA  
Council on Social Work Education

External Partners Group of the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities  
Families USA  
Family Equality Council  
Foundation for Mental Health  
Having Our Say  
Health Care for America Now (HCAN)  
Hepatitis Foundation International  
HIV Medicine Association  
HIVictorious, Inc.  
Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research  
Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)  
Latino Agenda for Healthcare Reform  
Latinos for National Health Insurance  
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)  
Mental Health America  
NAACP  
NAMI  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum  
National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Eating Disorders  
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors Health Equity Council  
National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors  
National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA)  
National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of La Raza (NCLR)  
National Council of Urban Indian Health  
National Dental Association  
National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health  
National Foundation for Mental Health  
National Health Equity Coalition  
National Health Law Program  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health (NLIRH)  
National Latino Behavioral Health Association (NLBHA)  
National LGBT Health Coalition  
National Minority AIDS Council  
National Puerto Rican Coalition Inc.  
National REACH Coalition  
National WIC Association  
National Women's Law Center  
National Women's Health Network  
New Age Services Corporation  
Northwest Federation of Community Organizations  
Out of Many, One Coalition  
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) National  
Project Inform  
Raising Women's Voices for the Health Care We Need  
Researchers against Inactivity-related Disorders (RID)

Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE)  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)  
Special Olympics  
The AIDS Institute  
The Brooklyn Task Force on Infant and Maternal Mortality and Family Health  
The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA)  
The Disparities Solutions Center at Massachusetts General Hospital  
Thresholds  
WE ACT for Environmental Justice

Joined by: Consumers Union

CC: President of the United States Barack Obama  
Speaker Nancy Pelosi  
Majority Leader Steny Hoyer  
Majority Whip James Clyburn  
House Energy and Commerce Committee  
House Energy and Commerce Committee, Subcommittee on Health  
House Ways and Means Committee  
House Ways and Means Committee, Subcommittee on Health  
House Education and Labor Committee  
Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus  
Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus Health Taskforce  
Congressional Black Caucus  
Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus Health and the Environment Taskforce