

June 23, 2011

The Honorable Daniel Akaka
United States Senator
141 Hart SOB
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
United States Senator
722 Hart SOB
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
United States Senator
703 Hart SOB
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ben Cardin
United States Senator
509 Hart SOB
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Akaka, Senator Inouye, Senator Bingaman and Senator Cardin,

We write to thank you for your work and leadership on issues important to the health and well-being of minority communities in the United States. During the debate on health care reform in the 111th Congress, your offices ensured that the voices of our communities were included in the Affordable Care Act (ACA). We fully support the provisions in this law that expand access to affordable health insurance coverage for those who are uninsured and underinsured, ensure quality in the delivery of care, advance research and promote healthy behaviors throughout our communities. These are all important steps towards eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities.

We are thankful for your continued leadership and commitment to developing legislation that builds on these advancements. As Senators who have been championing these efforts, we are ready to work with your offices to move forward legislation that advances health equity initiatives to build on the progress made by the ACA.

As organizations and working group members committed to reducing racial and ethnic health disparities and promoting health equity, we are ready to support your work in this endeavor. Sixty-one community organizations, national advocacy groups, professional organizations and research institutions, many of whom have supported this legislation in the past, are ready to offer our expertise and networks to advance the development of the bill in the 112th Congress.

Thank you again for your leadership on these issues.

Sincerely,

AIDS United
Alliance for a Just Society
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD)
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association

American Kidney Fund
American Lung Association
American Psychological Association
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Asian American Justice Center
Asian Pacific American Legal Center
Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy and Leadership (APPEAL)
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
Center for American Progress Action Fund
Community Catalyst
Community Organizations in Action
Counselors Helping (South) Asians, Inc. (CHAI)
Disability Policy Consortium
Families USA
Family Equality Council
First Focus
Human Rights Campaign
Institute for the Advancement of Multicultural & Minority Medicine
Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)
Joseph H. Kanter Family Foundation
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors - NASTAD
National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse (NAPAFASA)
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Association of Social Workers
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Congress of American Indians
National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of La Raza (NCLR)
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund
National Health Law Program
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Immigration Law Center
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Latino AIDS Action Network (NLAAN)
National Minority AIDS Council
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Urban League
New York Immigration Coalition
Prevention Institute
Raising Women's Voices for the Health Care We Need
Society for Public Health Education
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)

Summit Health Institute for Research and Education, Inc.
The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
Voices for America's Children
Vulcan Enterprises LLC