

# **Improve the Health of Urban and Rural Communities**

## **Co-sponsor H.R. 3014, the Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2007**

Cosponsors: (81) Abercrombie, Baca, Baldwin, Becerra, S. Bishop, Bordallo, C. Brown, Butterfield, Capps, Cardoza, Carson, Castor, Christensen, Clarke, Clay, Cleaver, Clyburn, Conyers, Costa, Crowley, Cuellar, Cummings, A. Davis, D. Davis, Ellison, Faleomavaega, Fattah, Filner, *Fortuno*, Gonzalez, A. Green, G. Green, Grijalva, Gutierrez, Hastings, Hinojosa, Hirono, Honda, Hoyer, J. Jackson, Jefferson, Eddie Bernice Johnson, H. Johnson, Tubbs Jones, Kildee, Kilpatrick, B. Lee, Jackson-Lee, J. Lewis, Matsui, Meek, Meeks, Moore, Napolitano, Holmes Norton, Ortiz, Pastor, Payne, Rangel, Reyes, Rush, Rodriguez, *Ros-Lehtinen*, Roybal-Allard, Salazar, Li. Sanchez, Schakowsky, D. Scott, R. Scott, Serrano, Sires, Stark, B. Thompson, Towns, Velazquez, Waters, Watson, Watt, Waxman, Weiner, Wynn

As the Health Chairs of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Congressional Asian and Pacific American Caucus, Congressional Black Caucus, and Chair of the Hispanic Conference, we hope you will join us in our efforts to reduce health disparities and achieve health equity for all communities of color by becoming a cosponsor of H.R. 3014, the *Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2007*.

This legislation was developed by the Health Chairs of the House minority caucuses and will eliminate the persistent health disparities that leave millions of Americans in poorer health and more likely to die prematurely during their most productive life years. Despite the dramatic achievements in health and healthcare over the past century, the health of racial and ethnic minority Americans and those who live in rural communities continues to lag behind that of other Americans.

The world-renowned Institute of Medicine, myriad think tanks and health policy experts have developed sound reports on inequities in the nation's health care system, each of which calls for comprehensive legislation to address the underlying causes of disparities in health status and healthcare in racial and ethnic minority, as well as rural populations. This bill adheres to the recommendations in these reports and thus will help this nation take important steps to combat the underlying causes of health disparities. The *Health Equity and Accountability Act* will:

- ❖ [Bolster efforts to ensure culturally and linguistically appropriate health care and remove language and cultural barriers to healthcare;](#)
- ❖ [Reduces disparities in rural populations;](#)
- ❖ [Improve workforce diversity;](#)
- ❖ [Strengthen and coordinate data collection;](#)
- ❖ [Expand access to health information technology;](#)
- ❖ [Ensure accountability and improve evaluation; and](#)
- ❖ [Improve health care services.](#)

Not since 2000 has Congress taken significant steps to reduce recognized disparities in health care for minority and rural communities – we must act on these recommendations to ensure diverse communities are not further disadvantaged. As Members of Congress who are committed to improving public health for all communities, regardless of geography, race or ethnicity, we hope that you will join us in becoming a cosponsor. For more information or to become a cosponsor, please contact Noelle Lee (Rep. Solis) at x5-5464, Britt Weinstock (Rep. Christensen) at x5-1790, or Jed Bullock (Rep. Bordallo) at x5-1188. .

Sincerely,

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s/Hilda L. Solis  
Member of Congress

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s/Luis G. Fortuño  
Member of Congress

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s/Madeleine Z. Bordallo  
Member of Congress

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s/Donna M. Christensen  
Member of Congress