

Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2014

In a major move to address health disparities and achieve health equity for all, Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard introduced the Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA) (H.R. 5294) in late July 2014. This bill serves as a comprehensive blueprint to advance the nation's health with a legislative and regulatory framework that builds on the advances made under the Affordable Care Act.

ABC worked along with other groups to provide input into this important bill. We are pleased to endorse this legislation which is supported by over 350 groups working to improve the health status of minorities across the country.

HEAA of 2014 provides federal resources, policies, and infrastructure to eliminate health disparities, with a focus on racial and ethnic minorities and other 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.

ABC urges you to contact your U.S. Representative and request that he/she cosponsor this important legislation.

A short overview of each title of this bill is included below for your reference.

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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 new training opportunities for professional and allied health care workers to enable more effective service to communities of color.

Title IV: Improvement of Health Care Services—Removes barriers to health insurance coverage and services and maximizes the 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 cardiovascular disease, cancer, 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 social determinants of health as the root causes of health disparities.