June 15, 2016

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

The Honorable Barbara Lee
Health Task Force Co-Chair
Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus
2267 Rayburn 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 Ami Bera
Health Task Force Co-Chair
Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus
1535 Longworth 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 2016

Dear Representative Kelly and Members of the Congressional TriCaucus:

As organizations committed to achieving health equity, we are writing to express our organizational support of the Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA) of 2016.

Since the 108th Congress, the Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA) has provided a comprehensive legislative approach to eliminate health disparities and achieve health equity. This year’s reintroduction of HEAA signals the ongoing need to establish additional federal resources and policies, as well as the infrastructure necessary to improve access to quality care and better health outcomes for racial and ethnic minorities and other underserved populations who face barriers to care.

HEAA 2016 is comprised of the following titles that include provisions to address a 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. Improvement of health care services;
5. Improving health outcomes for women, children and families;
6. Mental health;
7. High-impact minority diseases;
8. Health information technology;
9. Accountability and evaluation; and
10. Social determinants and environmental justice.
Importantly, the bill also addresses the need for meaningful data collection to better inform our understanding of the health disparities that continue to plague this nation and strengthen the network of care delivery through the support of community based organizations.

Achieving health equity remains to be a fundamental challenge for society. It is imperative that we work together to help eliminate the significant cultural, physical, social and economic barriers that continue to prohibit communities of color and other persons from obtaining quality care and achieving equitable health outcomes. HEAA 2016 is an important piece of legislation that provides the necessary framework to build on the progress of the Affordable Care Act.

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

Sincerely,

HEAA Coalition Lead Organization
National Urban League

National Organizations
30 for 30 Campaign
9to5, National Association of Working Women
ADAP Advocacy Association (aaa+)
Advocates for Youth
Aging Life Care Association™
AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families
The AIDS Institute
AIDS United
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 Heart Association
American Kidney Fund
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery
American Society on Aging
American Thoracic Society
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
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
Black Women’s Health Imperative
Breast Cancer Action
Caring Across Generations
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
Coalition for Disability Health Equity
Coalition for Disability Health Equity
Community Access National Network (CANN)
Community Catalyst
Directors of Health Promotion and Education
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities
Families USA
Family Equality Council
Family Voices
George Washington University, Department of Health Policy and Management
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality
Hepatitis Foundation International
Hispanic Dental Association (HDA)
IMPRINT
Lakeshore Foundation
Law Students for Reproductive Justice
MomsRising
NAACP
NAPAFASA
NASTAD (National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors)
National Association of Certified Professional Midwives
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Black Women’s HIV/AIDS Network, Inc.
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Collaborative for Health Equity
National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)
National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of La Raza (NCLR)
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association
National Health Law Program
National Hispanic Health Foundation
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Immigration Law Center
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
National Network of Abortion Funds
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable
National WIC Association
National Women’s Health Network
National Women’s Law Center
Institute for the Study of "Race" and Social Justice
NMAC
Obesity Action Coalition
Obesity Medicine Association
The Obesity Society
Pacific American Foundation
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
The Praxis Project
Prevention Institute
Raising Women’s Voices for the Health Care We Need
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)
Shape Up America!
Sleep Research Society
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
Summit Health Institute for Research and Education, Inc.
Upwardly Global
Welcome Back Initiative
World Education Services (WES)

State Organizations
Alabama
AIDS Alabama
Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing, and Allied Health

Arizona
Asian Pacific Community in Action

California
AIDS Project Los Angeles
APLA Health & Wellness
Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center
California Immigrant Policy Center
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
TOFA Inc.
California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals

Colorado
Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR)

Connecticut
CT Coalition of Mutual Assistance Associations, Inc.
Lao Association of Connecticut, Inc.
Network 4 Health

Florida
Hispanic Health Initiatives, Inc.
Georgia
Center for Pan Asian Community Services Inc.
Morehouse School of Medicine
Vietnamese American Community of Georgia, Inc.

Illinois
ASIAN HEALTH COALITION
EverThrive Illinois

Kentucky
Kentucky Equal Justice Center

Louisiana
MQVN Community Development Corporation

Massachusetts
Southeast Asian Coalition of Central Massachusetts
DISABILITY Policy Consortium

Michigan
Healthy Asian Americans Project

Mississippi
Boat People SOS-Gulf Coast
Steps Coalition

Missouri
Empower Missouri

New Jersey
New Jersey Citizen Action

New Mexico
NM Statewide Race Gender Class Data Policy Consortium
Southwest Women's Law Center

New York
Apicha Community Health Center
Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY
Claire Heureuse Community Center, Inc.
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families
Community Service Center of Greater Williamsburg
Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York
New Yorkers for Accessible Health Coverage
Oxford Family Group Day Care
Violence Intervention Program

North Carolina
Gaston Family Health Services
HealthNet Gaston
North Carolina Justice Center

Ohio
Asian American Community Services
Asian Services In Action
Ohio Asian American Health Coalition
Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio

Oregon
Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon

Pennsylvania
Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians
Public Citizens for Children and Youth

Rhode Island
Center for Southeast Asians

South Carolina
SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center

Tennessee
Meharry Medical College
Tennessee Justice Center

Texas
Senior Community Outreach Services, Inc.

Utah
National Tongan American Society