

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 111<sup>th</sup> 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 112<sup>th</sup> 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