



May 16, 2013

VIA FACSIMILE AND U.S. MAIL

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related
Agencies
Room S 128 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member, House Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related
Agencies
2330 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barbara Lee
Member, House Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related
Agencies
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Harkin, Congresswoman Roybal-Allard and Congresswoman Lee:

The National Health Equity Coalition (NHEC) and its allies, representing a broad network of national and local organizations dedicated to the elimination of racial and ethnic health disparities and inequities, thank you for your continued support of programs that play a crucial role in eliminating health disparities. We applaud your strong support for the Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) program during the recent hearings with Secretary Sebelius. Our nation is only as strong as the most vulnerable among us and we appreciate your leadership and willingness to give voice to the most marginalized in our communities.

Across the country, health disparities continue to persist and widen in communities historically marginalized as a result of poverty and other social, economic, and environmental barriers. While a number of general population level health promotion programs have resulted in improvements in the morbidity and mortality rates of some of the leading causes of death in our nation, there is no evidence of the effectiveness of this approach to specifically reduce racial and ethnic health disparities. However, over the past ten years, REACH programs have documented continued success in engaging impacted communities in addressing the underlying conditions of chronic disease. The achievements of REACH grantees in preventing the widening of racial and

ethnic health disparities serve as a model and critical complement to Community Transformation Grants (CTGs) and other general public health promotion programs. These separate and distinct programs work together to promote community-based best practices and develop evidence-based interventions which have resulted in sustained positive results. It is therefore important to differentiate REACH from CTGs while recognizing their interdependent approaches to addressing health disparities. Eliminating the REACH program sacrifices long-term investments in ending health disparities for short-term financial gains – gains that will end up costing us more down the road.

As NHEC and our partners redouble our efforts to ensure that critical programs addressing health disparities among underserved communities and populations are protected, we draw inspiration and renewed energy from your unwavering support. We thank you for your leadership in protecting programs that play a crucial role in eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities.

For more information, contact Lark Galloway-Gilliam, Community Health Councils, (323) 295-9372 or lark@chc-inc.org or Paulo Pontemayor, Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum at (202) 706-6777 or ppontemayor@apiahf.org.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

AIDS United
Alliance for a Just Society
American Association of Birth Centers
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy and Leadership (APPEAL)
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations
Black Women's Health Imperative
Boat People SOS
Center of Excellence in Women's Health UA Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health
CommonHealth ACTION
Community Access National Network
DeVany Industrial Consultants
Families USA
GrowFood.org
HealthHIV
HMS - Center for Health Innovation
Midwives Alliance of North America (MANA)
National Association of Certified Professional Midwives
National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors
National Council of La Raza
National Health Law Program (NHeLP)
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Latino Health Equity Alliance (Latino Alliance)
National Women's Health Network
Native Health Initiative

National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians (NCAPIP)
Restaurant Opportunities Centers United
The HYPE Movement
The Praxis Project
Trust for America's Health
United Sikhs
Voices for America's Children
YMCA of the USA

State & Local Organizations

Agape Love Christian Center
Alexander Family YMCA
Asian Health Coalition
Asian Health Services
Asian Pacific American Legal Center, Member of Asian American Center for Advancing Justice
Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon
Asian Pacific Community in Action
Asian Services In Action, Inc. (ASIA)
Asian Women for Health
Bridgeport Health Department
California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative
Campesinos Sin Fronteras, Inc.
CCARE, City of Hope National Medical Center
Center for Community Health Education & Research Inc.
Center for Pan Asian Community Services, Inc.
CHOW Project
Cleveland Catholic Charities - Migration and Refugee Services
Cleveland Chinese Contemporary Culture Association
Coalition for Asian American Children & Families
Commission on the Public's Health System
Community Health Councils, Inc.
Cornell University Cooperative Extension-NYC
EFAP Initiative
Cuyahoga County Board of Health
Disability Policy Consortium
DREAM Project Community Coalition
Ed & Ruth Lehman YMCA
Federation of India Communities Association
Flint/Genesee Neighborhood Roundtable & Community Based Organization Partners (CBOP)
Gethsemane Baptist Church
Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services
Health Innovations YMCA
Hindu Heritage School of Solon
Individual & Family Counseling Social Work
International Services Center
Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan
Khmer Health Advocates, Inc.
Kingsboro Psychiatric Center (Canarsie OPD Clinic)
Korea School of Cleveland

Korean Community Services of New York, Inc
Korean Community Services Public Health and Research Center
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
Mai Family Services
Malama Pono Health Services
Merrimack Valley YMCA
Morehouse School of Medicine
Morrissania D&TC WIC Program
New Mexico Asian Family Center
New Yorkers for Accessible Health Coverage
Operation Samahan, Inc.
Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance, Inc.
Organization of Chinese Associations of Greater Cleveland
Pacific American Foundation
Pacific Center for Primary Care and Health Equity
Pacific Comprehensive Cancer Control Program
Pacific Regional Central Cancer Registry Program
Philippine American Society of Ohio
Program for Research and Outreach-Engagement on Nutrition and Health Disparities
Purdue University Center for Cancer Research
REACH - University of Arizona
Reaching Immigrants Through Community Empowerment (RICE) Coalition
Salaam Cleveland
Sea Mar Community Health Centers
Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland
Skagit County Department of Public Health
St. Clair Superior Development Corporation
Steps Coalition
Taulama for Tongans
Texas Health Institute
The Brooklyn Task Force on Infant and Maternal Mortality and Family Health
The Disparities Solutions Center at Massachusetts General Hospital
The Institute for Family Health/Bronx Health REACH
The Korean American Association of Greater Cleveland
The Next Door, Inc.
The United Hair and Nail Association
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health El Paso Regional Campus
Tulane University
U.S. Together, Inc.
University of Hawaii, School of Nursing
University of Hawaii Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, Pacific Center of Excellence in the Elimination of Disparities
University of New Mexico Office for Community Health
University of Pennsylvania, Asian Health Initiatives
West Michigan Asian American Association
Westlake Chinese Cultural Association
YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids
YMCA of Greater Hartford
YMCA of Greater Syracuse

YMCA of the East Bay
YMCA of the Triangle Area
YMCA of Yonkers