

February 26, 2014

Dear Member of Congress:

We, the undersigned organizations representing patients, consumers, healthcare providers and industry, write to express our strong support of H.R. 3322, the Eliminating Disparities in Diabetes Prevention, Access, and Care Act of 2013. Introduced by Representatives Diana DeGette (D-CO) and Ed Whitfield (R-KY), H.R. 3322 addresses the disparate impact of diabetes on members of minority populations. This legislation is critical because in order to address the growing diabetes epidemic, we must pay special attention to the high prevalence of diabetes in communities of color.

Nearly 26 million Americans have diabetes and an additional 79 million have prediabetes and are at high risk for type 2 diabetes. Diabetes is a devastating disease that affects all populations. However, this public health crisis disproportionately affects individuals from minority populations who are at higher risk for developing both diabetes and its dangerous complications. In fact, while 7.1 percent of non-Hispanic white Americans have been diagnosed with diabetes, over 16.1 percent of American Indian and Alaska Natives, 12.6 percent of African Americans, 11.8 percent of Latino Americans, and 8.4 of Asian Americans have the disease. As these minority populations are hit the hardest by diabetes, we cannot begin to address the diabetes epidemic as a whole without getting to the root of these disparities and taking action to eliminate them.

H.R. 3322 will address this issue from all sides, aiming to improve research, treatment and prevention of diabetes in minority populations. Strengthening the focus on diabetes disparities at the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Health Resources and Services Administration and the Indian Health Service will help determine the underlying cause of these disparities, provide culturally appropriate treatment and prevention services, and improve the capacity of our public health workforce.

Again, our organizations support H.R. 3322 as an important step in addressing the disproportionate impact of diabetes on minority populations. Please consider cosponsoring this legislation.

Sincerely,

AANHPI Diabetes Coalition  
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
AIDS Community Research Initiative of America  
Alliance for a Just Society  
American Diabetes Association  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American Kidney Fund  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
American Society for Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery  
American Society of Bariatric Physicians  
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations  
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools  
Billing Clinic, Cody Wyoming  
Black Women's Health Imperative  
California Center for Rural Policy

Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science  
Community Access National Network  
Connecticut Commission on Health Equity  
Dignity Health  
Eli Lilly and Company  
Eta Sigma Gamma  
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality  
Global Justice Institute  
Healthcare Leadership Council  
Hepatitis Foundation International  
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California  
Latino Commission on AIDS  
League of United Latin American Citizens  
Louisiana Housing Alliance  
Merck  
Metropolitan Community Churches  
Meharry Medical College  
Midwives Alliance of North American  
Morehouse School of Medicine  
National AHEC Organization  
National Association of Hispanic Nurses  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians  
National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
Novo Nordisk Inc.  
Obesity Action Coalition  
Partners in Action for Healthy Living  
Society for Public Health Education  
St. Mary's Center, Oakland CA  
Summit Health Institute for Research and Education, Inc.  
The Endocrine Society  
The Obesity Society  
Trust for America's Health  
Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing, and Allied Health  
University of Texas Houston School of Public Health, El Paso Campus  
Weight Watchers International  
YMCA of the USA