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