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AAPCHO Applauds Introduction of Health Equity Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 30, 2014 – The Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO) today commended the Congressional Tri-Caucus—comprised of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, the Congressional Black Caucus, and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus—and lead sponsor Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-40) for introducing the Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2014 to reduce ethnic and racial disparities in health care access and outcomes.

The bill, which supports health equity improvement efforts in communities nationwide, includes provisions that improve and guide federal efforts in areas including: culturally and linguistically competent care; data collection and reporting; diseases that have a disparate impact on racial and ethnic minorities, such as viral hepatitis, diabetes, and HIV/AIDS; health information technology; and addressing social determinants of health.

"We applaud the members of the Congressional Tri-Caucus for their tireless efforts to advance health equity and improve the health of all communities," said Jeffrey Caballero, executive director of AAPCHO. "The bill includes some of the top health care priorities for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, including provisions for culturally and linguistically appropriate health care, more accurate and disaggregated data collection, and measures to address diseases like diabetes and viral hepatitis that disproportionately impact these communities."

As an organization committed to improving the health status and access of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, and to achieving health equity for all communities, AAPCHO wrote to lawmakers to urge passage of the bill. For more on AAPCHO's recommendations, read the organization's letter to legislators [here](#).

"While the Affordable Care Act is a significant step towards health equity, much more needs to be done to address existing disparities. The Health Equity and Accountability Act will help to ensure that all communities have equal access to a healthier future and we look forward to working with our partners to help pass this law," Caballero added.

About AAPCHO

AAPCHO is a national association of 34 community health organizations dedicated to promoting advocacy, collaboration, and leadership that improves the health status and access of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian, and other Pacific Islanders in the U.S. For more information on AAPCHO and its Guiding Principles and Values, please visit www.aapcho.org.

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