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## The Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2022

The Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA) is a comprehensive and strategic legislative roadmap that aims to eliminate racial and ethnic health inequities. HEAA is the only legislation that directly addresses the intersection of health inequities with race and ethnicity, as well as immigration status, age, disability, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, language, and socio-economic status. Since 2003, HEAA has been introduced by the Congressional Tri-Caucus, comprised of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC). The CBC is leading the introduction of HEAA for the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress and Congresswoman Robin Kelly, Chair of the CBC Health Braintrust, is the lead sponsor.

HEAA builds on the gains made under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and lays out a vision of additional investments Congress should make to enhance the health and well-being of systemically marginalized and underserved communities, address health inequities and ensure access to high quality and affordable health care for all. HEAA addresses a wide range of issues including:

- *Reducing racial and ethnic health inequities across the life span*, including infant and maternal mortality rates.
- *Ensuring all behavioral health, services are culturally responsive* for racially and ethnically diverse communities
- *Supporting diversity among healthcare workers* with grants to HBCUs and other MSIs, among other federal investments
- *Improving health care access and quality for all*, including low-income communities and undocumented children and families.
- *Strengthening health data collection* to inform policies that eradicate racial and ethnic health inequities
- *Enhancing language access and culturally-informed care* for limited English proficient (LEP) immigrants, and other communities of color.
- *Addressing social determinants of health* to mitigate the effects of systemic racism, poverty, and discrimination.

Over 300 racial and health equity organizations, researchers, provider groups, and community-based organizations have contributed to the development of HEAA since its inception. Additionally, over 150 Members of Congress have co-sponsored HEAA over the past decade.

### CONTACT

For questions about HEAA, please contact Dr. Anita Burgos with Congresswoman Kelly's office ([anita.burgos@mail.house.gov](mailto:anita.burgos@mail.house.gov)).