



Press Release

The National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians wishes to issue the following statement in response to today's release of a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation study on physician support for health care reform.

"The National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians (NCAPIP) is gratified with today's release of a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation study which found 63% of America's physicians support a public option to health care reform. This affirms what members of NCAPIP have long asserted, that the public insurance option is a vital component of assuring universal coverage for all Americans.

Many of NCAPIP members have dedicated their practice serving underserved Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AA and NHPI) communities, often in the face of scarce resources, fragmented clinical systems, and narrow operational margins. Although Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders represent diverse experiences, they share certain common barriers to quality and affordable health care due to immigration status, lack of linguistically and culturally competent services and other social and economic factors. A public option will particularly benefit the AA and NHPI communities' many workers, small business operators, and immigrants who are currently uninsured or underinsured because they cannot access existing private health insurance or Medicaid /Medicare programs.

"We strongly urge Congress to pass a health care reform bill that includes the public option provision" stated NCAPIP Chair, Dexter Louie, M.D., and J.D.

NCAPIP is a national professional organization founded in 2006 to represent the AA and NHPI physicians voices in advancing the health care status of the AA and NHPI communities.