

January 27, 2011

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Senate Majority Leader

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Minority Leader

Regarding: In Support of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

Dear Senator Reid and Senator McConnell:

On behalf of the National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians (NCAPIP), National Hispanic Medical Association, and the National Medical Association, we urge the Senate to vote against the repeal legislation entitled "Repealing the Job-Killing Health Care Act Law." We stand firmly behind the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Repealing this law would have a negative impact on our Asian, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Hispanic/Latino, and African American populations.

The (ongoing) implementation of the new law's funding for preventive health care services is critical for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities, as well as all Americans. From the NCAPIP perspective of physicians who work in and are from these underserved AA, NH, and PI communities, the Affordable Care Act is a landmark for improving access and quality of health care.

The Affordable Care Act provides positive change to the existing health care system, with many more important benefits to come. These benefits include a greater access to higher quality, lower cost health care (expanding health insurance coverage by over 32 million Americans); affordable coverage will increase particularly for AA, NH, and PI small business owners and self-employed individuals under improved Medicaid exchanges. Additionally, the new law contains opportunities for creating a more patient-centered, culturally competent health delivery workforce, as well as language that will require the collection of race/ethnicity data which will be important in informing and identifying important health-care issues and disparities in AA, NH, and PI communities.

We would be disheartened and disappointed if, at the precipice of so much positive and long awaited change, the law was repealed or stripped of its effectiveness to improve the quality of so many lives. We respectfully ask that you consider our voice and the voice of our communities, and choose not to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Sincerely,



Ho Luong Tran, MD  
President & CEO  
National Council of  
Asian Pacific Islander Physicians



Leonard Weather, MD  
President  
National Medical Association



Elena Rios, MD  
President & CEO  
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