

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1104

November 16, 2018

Cosponsor the Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA) of 2018

Dear Colleague:

I invite you to join me and my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus in cosponsoring the Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA) of 2018. HEAA was first introduced in the Senate by my friend and former colleague Senator Daniel Akaka and I am proud to continue his legacy of fighting for the health of all people.

Health care as a right, not a privilege, should extend to everyone in our country regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status. All too often communities of color and other minorities continue to face barriers to obtaining quality health care and achieving equitable outcomes.

HEAA, in its comprehensive approach to health care, has served as a resource in developing health care legislation. Many policy initiatives from previous versions of HEAA were included in the Affordable Care Act, such as expanding Offices of Minority Health and strengthening health data collection standards.

Although we have made progress over the last few years in improving our health care system, there is more we must do. HEAA lays out a vision of additional investments Congress should make to comprehensively address health disparities and ensure access to quality health care for everyone. HEAA uniquely targets a wide spectrum of health equity concerns including improving data collection, enhancing culturally appropriate health care, increasing workforce diversity, improving health outcomes, providing resources to fight high-impact minority diseases, and addressing the social determinants of health.

I hope that you will cosponsor this important legislation to build on the progress made under the Affordable Care Act through additional investments to achieve health equity. If you have questions or would like to cosponsor HEAA, please contact my health policy advisor, Kerry Allen at Kerry_Allen@hirono.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

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