

**Key Health Disparities-Focused Legislation
Introduced in the 110th Congress**

December 2007

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Comprehensive Minority Health Legislation	
Minority Health Improvement and Health Disparity Elimination Act	3
Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2007	4
Environmental Health Legislation	
Healthy Places Act of 2007	6
Environmental Justice Act of 2007	7
Health Technology-Focused Legislation	
Telehealth and Medically Underserved and Advancement Act of 2007	9
Population and Condition-Specific Legislation	
Indian Health Care Improvement Act Amendments of 2007	11
Indian Youth Telemental Health Demonstration Project Act of 2007	12
Tribal Health Promotion and Tribal Colleges and Universities Advancement Act of 2007	13
Communities of Color Teen Prevention and Pregnancy Act of 2007	14
Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Reauthorization Act of 2007	15
Legal Immigrant Children’s Health Improvement Act of 2007	16
Border Health Security Act of 2007	17
Office of Men’s Health Act of 2007	18
Mental Health Services for Veterans with Limited English Proficiency [†]	19
Minority Diabetes Initiative Act	20
Diabetes Prevention Access and Care Act of 2007	21
Glossary of Terms	22

[†] The full title of this bill is “To require the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide mental health services in languages other than English, as needed, for veterans with limited English proficiency, and for other purposes.”

Introduction

Although the 110th Congress is only about half-way through, the number of bills introduced that include some attention to “health disparities” is about the same as introduced in the entire 109th Congress. This compendium summarizes federal legislative efforts introduced in the 110th Congress that focus on addressing racial and ethnic disparities in health and health care.¹ A search of the Library of Congress’ legislative database identified 177 bills introduced thus far in the 110th Congress that met our search criteria.²

While a number of bills introduced this year may have an impact on health disparities and/or affect minority health, the goal of this document is to highlight legislation that specifically addresses racial and ethnic health disparities. About a dozen such bills have been introduced in the 110th Congress, including the Minority Health Improvement and Health Disparity Elimination Act and the Office of Men’s Health Act of 2007. Many others, such as the Lupus Research, Education, Awareness, Communication, and Healthcare Amendments of 2007 include provisions to address minority populations, but do not specifically focus on disparities. For this reason, this compendium does not discuss them.

Several bills introduced in the 110th Congress focus on expanding health insurance coverage to the uninsured, across racial and ethnic groups. Though not included in this compendium, legislation that would improve access to health coverage for minority groups, such as the Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007, the Children’s Dental Health Improvement Act, and the United States National Insurance Act, are of critical importance as more than half of the 47 million uninsured Americans are people of color.

¹ Information drawn heavily from THOMAS, the Library of Congress’ free resource for federal legislative information. Information is current as of 12/10/07. Please see <http://thomas.loc.gov> for more details about the legislation found in this compendium.

² The search terms used for this compendium were health disparity, health disparities, and minority health. The bills identified include bills introduced and their amended versions.

Comprehensive Minority Health Legislation

	House	Senate
Title	Minority Health Improvement and Health Disparity Elimination Act [H.R.3333]	Minority Health Improvement and Health Disparity Elimination Act [S.1576]
Sponsor, (Co-Sponsors)	Rep. Jesse Jackson [D-IL], (58)	Sen. Edward Kennedy [D-MA], (14)
Status	Introduced: 08/02/07; Referred to House Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Health: 08/02/07	Introduced: 06/07/07; Referred to Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: 06/07/07
Target Population	Same as Senate	Racial/ethnic minority groups, underrepresented minorities
Overview	Same as Senate	Amends the Public Health Service Act to improve the health and healthcare of racial and ethnic minority groups.
Key Disparities Provisions	Same as Senate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires the Secretary of DHHS to develop an Internet Clearinghouse within the Office of Minority Health, provide for programs of excellence in health professions education for underrepresented minorities, and support demonstration projects designed to improve the health and health care of racial and ethnic minority groups through improved access to health care, patient navigators, primary prevention activities, health promotion and disease prevention activities, and health literacy education and services. • Will establish the Health Action Zone Initiative demonstration program to support comprehensive state, tribal, or local initiatives to improve the health of racial and ethnic minority groups. • Provides for research to improve the health of racial and ethnic minority groups. The National Plan to Improve Minority Health and Eliminate Health Disparities will be developed and implemented to improve minority health and eliminate health disparities in the United States. • Reauthorizes HRSA diversity in the health professional programs. • Codifies the CDC Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH). • Reauthorizes and strengthens the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities at the NIH. • Ensures the collection and reporting of data on race and ethnicity, primary language, and other health disparity indicators within federal health programs. • Reauthorizes and expands the duties of the Office of Minority Health.
Costs/Financing	Same as Senate	\$500 million (Source: kennedy.senate.gov)

Title	Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2007 [H.R.3014]
Sponsor, (Co-Sponsors)	Rep. Hilda Solis [D-CA], (88)
Status	Introduced: 07/12/07; Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means, House Committee on Natural Resources, and House Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Health: 07/12/07; Referred to House Committee on the Judiciary's Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties: 08/10/07; Referred to House Committee on Education and Labor's Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education: 09/11/07
Target Population	Racial and ethnic minority groups
Overview	Amends the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of minority individuals.
Key Disparities Provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides for health care workforce diversity activities, including the establishment of: (1) a technical clearinghouse on health workforce diversity; and (2) Regional Minority Centers of Excellence Programs. • Requires health-related programs of DHHS to collect data on race, ethnicity, and primary language. • Directs each federal health agency to implement a strategic plan to eliminate disparities and improve the health and health care of minority populations. • Requires the Secretary to establish: (1) an Office of Health Disparities within the Office of Civil Rights; and (2) civil rights compliance offices in each DHHS agency that administers health programs. • Reestablishes the IHS as an agency within the Public Health Service of DHHS to be administered by an Assistant Secretary of Indian Health. • Requires the establishment of an Office of Minority Health within CDC, HRSA, SAMHSA, and AOA. Also establishes an Office of Minority Health at CMS to improve health and health care for minority beneficiaries in the Medicare, Medicaid and SCHIP programs and an Office of Minority Affairs at FDA. • Directs the President to execute, administer, and enforce provisions to address environmental justice in minority and low-income populations. • Provides for the establishment of health empowerment zone programs in communities that disproportionately experience disparities in health status and health care. • Requires the Secretary to designate centers of excellence at public hospitals and other health systems that demonstrate excellence in providing care to minority populations and reducing health disparities. Also requires the Secretary to expand the Minority HIV/AIDS Initiative and establish the Rural Health Quality Advisory Commission. • Makes immigrants from certain U.S. territories and possessions eligible for specified federal programs. • Provides for grants for strategies to eliminate racial and ethnic health and health care disparities.
Costs/Financing	CBO estimate not currently available.

Environmental Health Legislation

	House	Senate
Title	Healthy Places Act of 2007 [H.R. 398]	Healthy Places Act of 2007 [S.1067]
Sponsor, (Co-Sponsors)	Rep. Hilda Solis [D-CA], (3)	Sen. Barack Obama [D-IL], (3)
Status	Introduced: 01/10/07; Referred to House Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Health, Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality, and Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials: 02/02/07	Introduced: 03/29/07; Read twice and referred to Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: 03/29/07
Target Population	Disadvantaged populations	Same as House
Overview	Requires Federal agencies to support health impact assessments and take actions to improve health and the environmental quality of communities	Same as House
Key Disparities Provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires the Secretary of DHHS to establish an interagency working group to discuss environmental health concerns, particularly those disproportionately affecting disadvantaged populations. • Requires the Secretary, acting through the Director of the CDC, to establish a program at the National Center of Environmental Health at the CDC focused on advancing the field of health impact assessment. • Requires the Director to develop guidance for the assessment of potential health effects of land use, housing, and transportation policy and plans. • Requires the Secretary, acting through the Director, to: (1) establish a program to provide funding and technical assistance to state or local governments affected or potentially affected by an activity or proposed activity to prepare health impact assessments; and (2) establish and maintain a health impact assessment database. • Requires the Director to establish a grant program to award grants to state or local communities for environmental health improvement activities. Requires grantees to: (1) establish a planning and prioritizing council; and (2) conduct environmental health assessment. • Requires the Secretary to provide grants to public or private nonprofit institutions to conduct and coordinate research on the built environment and its influence on individual and population-based health. 	Same as House
Costs/Financing	CBO estimate not currently available.	Same as House

	House	Senate
Title	Environmental Justice Act of 2007 [H.R.1103]	Environmental Justice Act of 2007 [S.642]
Sponsor, (Co-Sponsors)	Rep. Hilda Solis [D-CA], (50)	Sen. Richard Durbin [D-IL], (3)
Status	Introduced: 02/15/07; Referred to House Committee on Energy and Commerce and House Committee on Natural Resources: 02/15/07; Hearings held by Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials: 10/04/07	Introduced: 02/15/07; Read twice and referred to Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works: 02/15/07
Target Population	Minority and low-income populations	Same as House
Overview	To codify Executive Order 12898, relating to environmental justice, to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to fully implement the recommendations of the Inspector General of the Agency and the Comptroller General of the United States.	Same as House
Key Disparities Provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorizes and directs the President to execute, administer, and enforce as a matter of federal law the provisions of Executive Order 12898, dated February 11, 1994, (Federal Actions To Address Environmental Justice In Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations) with modifications: (1) defining “environmental justice” and “fair treatment”; and (2) providing that the provisions concerning judicial review shall not apply. • Requires the Administrator of the EPA to carry out specified recommendations set forth in the following reports: (1) the EPA Inspector General’s report number 2006-P-00034 entitled “EPA needs to conduct environmental justice reviews of its programs, policies and activities”; (2) the GAO report numbered GAO-05-289 entitled “EPA Should Devote More Attention to Environmental Justice when Developing Clean Air Rules”; and (3) the Inspector General’s report number 2004-P-00007 entitled “EPA Needs to Consistently Implement the Intent of the Executive Order on Environmental Justice.” • Requires the Administrator to report semiannually to Congress on the implementation of such recommendations as well as progress on modifying emergency management procedures to incorporate environmental justice in the agency’s Incident Command Structure in accordance with the December 18, 2006, letter from the Deputy Administrator to the Acting Inspector General. 	Same as House
Costs/Financing	CBO estimate not currently available.	Same as House

Health Technology-Focused Legislation

Title	Telehealth and Medically Underserved and Advancement Act of 2007 [H.R.1601]
Sponsor, (Co-Sponsors)	Rep. William Jefferson [D-LA], (no co-sponsors)
Status	Introduced: 03/20/07; Referred to House Committee on Energy and Commerce and House Committee on Ways and Means: 03/20/07; Referred to Energy and Commerce's House Subcommittee on Health: 03/21/07; Referred to Ways and Means' Subcommittee on Health: 04/02/07
Target Population	Individuals in rural and urban medically underserved areas
Overview	Amends title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act to facilitate the provision of telehealth services.
Key Disparities Provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorizes the Director of the Office for the Advancement of Telehealth to award grants to: (1) demonstrate how telehealth technologies can be used to expand access to, coordinate, and improve the quality of health care services, and to improve and expand the training of health care providers, the quality of health information available, and efforts to eliminate health care disparities; and (2) provide oral health services to patients who reside in rural areas. • Directs the Secretary to establish a Joint Working Group on Telehealth to: (1) identify, monitor, and coordinate federal telehealth projects, data sets, and programs; (2) analyze how telehealth systems are expanding access to health care services, education, and information; (3) analyze the quality of the telehealth services delivered; (4) analyze how telehealth systems can improve health care quality and eliminate disparities; and (5) make recommendations for coordinating federal and state efforts to increase access to health services, education, and information in rural and urban medically underserved areas. • Expands eligibility to increase the type of sites allowed to offer telehealth services to include sites such as skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, and county/community health centers; also removes the requirement that these originating sites must be in rural areas.
Costs/Financing	CBO estimate not currently available.

Population and Condition-Specific Legislation

	House	Senate
Title	Indian Health Care Improvement Act Amendments of 2007 [H.R.1328]	Indian Health Care Improvement Act Amendments of 2007 [S.1200]
Sponsor, (Co-Sponsors)	Rep. Frank Pallone [D-NJ], (53)	Sen. Byron Dorgan [D-ND], (29)
Status	Introduced: 03/06/07; Referred to House Natural Resources Committee: 3/14/07, Amended by Voice Vote: 04/25/07; Referred to House Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Health: 03/07/07, Forwarded by House Subcommittee on Health to House Committee on Energy and Commerce (Amended by Voice Vote): 11/07/07; Referred to House Ways and Means' Subcommittee of Health: 03/14/07	Introduced: 04/24/07; Read twice and referred to Senate Committee on Indian Affairs: 04/24/07; Reported by Senator Dorgan with amendment, and placed on Senate Legislative Calendar: 10/16/07
Target Population	Indians, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations.	Same as House
Overview	Amends the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to revise requirements for health care programs and services for Indians, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations.	Same as House
Key Disparities Provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expands coverage for qualified Indians in the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) • Provides payments to Indian Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations operating in the state. • Directs the Secretary of DHHS, acting through the IHS and Indian tribes and tribal organizations, to consolidate certain existing programs into a new program of comprehensive behavioral health, prevention, treatment, and aftercare for Indian tribes. • Establishes IHS as an agency within the Public Health Service of DHHS to be administered by an Assistant Secretary of Indian Health. • Establishes the National Bipartisan Indian Health Care Commission to: (1) establish a study committee to study the extent of Indian health services needs; (2) review and analyze the study committee's report; and (3) make recommendations to Congress regarding the delivery of federal health care services to Indians. 	Same as House
Costs/Financing	CBO estimates discretionary costs of \$2.7 billion in 2008, about \$16 billion over the 2008-2012 period, and about \$35 billion over the 2008-2017 period.	Same as House

Title	Indian Youth Telemental Health Demonstration Project Act of 2007 [S.322]
Sponsor, (Co-Sponsors)	Sen. Byron Dorgan [D-ND], (8)
Status	Introduced: 01/17/07; Read twice and referred to Senate Committee on Indian Affairs: 01/17/07; Reported by Senator Dorgan with an amendment, and placed on Senate Legislative Calendar: 04/10/07
Target Population	Indian and Alaska Native youth
Overview	A bill to establish an Indian youth telemental health demonstration project.
Key Disparities Provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorizes the Secretary of DHHS to carry out a demonstration project to award up to five grants, of up to four years each, for the provision of telemental health services to Indian youth who have expressed suicidal ideas, have attempted suicide, or have mental health conditions that increase or could increase the risk of suicide. • Makes eligible for such grants any Indian tribes and tribal organizations that operate one or more facilities: (1) located in Alaska and part of the Alaska Federal Health Care Access Network; (2) reporting active clinical telehealth capabilities; or (3) offering school-based telemental health services relating to psychiatry to Indian youth.
Costs/Financing	CBO estimates the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$1.5 million annually for fiscal years 2008-2011.

Title	Tribal Health Promotion and Tribal Colleges and Universities Advancement Act of 2007 [S.1779]
Sponsor, (Co-Sponsors)	Sen. John Tester [D-MT], (1)
Status	Introduced: 07/12/07; Read twice and referred to Senate Committee on Indian Affairs: 07/12/07
Target Population	American Indians and Alaska Natives
Overview	A bill to establish a program for tribal colleges and universities within the Department of Health and Human Services and to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to authorize the provision of grants and cooperative agreements to tribal colleges and universities.
Key Disparities Provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designates the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health within the Office of Public Health and Science to serve as the coordinating officer with respect to programs of tribal colleges and universities relating to health promotion and disease prevention. • Directs the Secretary of DHHS to implement a memorandum of agreement with the American Indian Higher Education Consortium to establish programs to: (1) ensure that Native American communities, through tribal colleges and universities, participate equitably in employment programs, services, and resources of DHHS; and (2) provide necessary technical assistance. • Establishes programs for: (1) community-based health and wellness fairs; (2) health promotion and disease prevention targeted programs and construction and renovation of community wellness centers; and (4) development and expansion of public health professional degree programs. • Establishes: (1) the Tribal College and University Rural Health Equity Endowment Fund; (2) at tribal colleges and universities, offices of sponsored programs; and (3) health promotion and disease prevention research programs. • Advancing Tribes Through Tribal Colleges and Universities Act or the AT TCUs Act - Establishes within the Administration on Native Americans, the Office on Tribal College and University Programs to: (1) administer the programs authorized by this Act; and (2) coordinate intra- and inter- departmental activities relating to tribal colleges and universities. • Establishes the: (1) Native Prosperity and Native American Language Vitalization and Training Programs; and (2) tribal colleges and universities native communities research program.
Costs/Financing	CBO estimate not currently available.

	House	Senate
Title	Communities of Color Teen Pregnancy Prevention Act of 2007 [H.R.468]	Communities of Color Teen Pregnancy Prevention Act of 2007 [S.1790]
Sponsor, (Co-Sponsors)	Rep. Hilda Solis [D-CA], (56)	Sen. Barack Obama [D-IL], (2)
Status	Introduced: 01/12/07; Referred to House Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Health: 02/02/07	Introduced: 07/16/07; Read twice and referred to Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: 07/16/07
Target Population	Teens in racial or ethnic minority or immigrant communities	Same as House
Overview	A bill to make grants to carry out activities to prevent teen pregnancy in racial or ethnic minority or immigrant communities.	A bill to make grants to carry out activities to prevent the incidence of unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections among teens in racial or ethnic minority or immigrant communities.
Key Disparities Provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires the Secretary of DHHS to make grants for projects to prevent teen pregnancies in racial, ethnic minority, or immigrant communities with a substantial incidence or prevalence of cases of teen pregnancy as compared to the average number of such cases in communities in the state involved. • Allows the Secretary to make grants to: (1) provide necessary social and cultural support services regarding teen pregnancy; (2) provide health and educational services related to the prevention of teen pregnancy; (3) promote better health and educational outcomes among pregnant teens; (4) provide training for individuals who plan to work in school-based support programs regarding the prevention of teen pregnancy; and (5) provide public education and increase awareness with respect to the issue of teen pregnancy and related social and emotional issues. • Requires the Secretary to make grants to establish and operate a National Clearinghouse for Teen Pregnancy Prevention. • Requires the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to make grants to conduct, support, and coordinate research on the prevention of teen pregnancy in such communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as House, with an additional focus on prevention of sexually transmitted infections
Costs/Financing	CBO estimate not currently available.	Same as House

Title	Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Reauthorization Act of 2007 [S.429]
Sponsor, (Co-Sponsors)	Sen. Daniel Inouye [D-HI], (1)
Status	Introduced: 01/30/07; Read twice and referred to Senate Committee on Indian Affairs: 01/31/07
Target Population	Native Hawaiians
Overview	Revises the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act to require any DHHS grant to or contract with Papa Ola Lokahi (an organization of public agencies and private organizations focused on improving the health status of Native Hawaiians) to support community-based initiatives that reflect holistic approaches to health.
Key Disparities Provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires Papa Ola Lokahi to report to Congress on the impact of federal and state health care financing mechanisms and policies on the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians, and makes Papa Ola Lokahi eligible to receive research endowments under the Public Health Service Act. • Adds the support of culturally appropriate activities enhancing health and wellness to services authorized under this Act. • Allows priority for Native Hawaiian health scholarships to be provided to employees of the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems and the Native Hawaiian Health Centers. • Allows the provision of financial assistance to a scholarship recipient during the period of obligated service in any of such health care systems or health centers. Authorizes Papa Ola Lokahi to provide fellowships to Native Hawaiian health professionals. • Authorizes the Secretary of DHHS to allocate funds to carry out Native Hawaiian demonstration projects of national significance, including the establishment of specified Native Hawaiian Centers of Excellence. • Deems the Papa Ola Lokahi as a qualified Center of Excellence.
Costs/Financing	CBO estimate not currently available.

	House	Senate
Title	Legal Immigrant Children’s Health Improvement Act of 2007 [H.R.1308]	Legal Immigrant Children’s Health Improvement Act of 2007 [S.764]
Sponsor, (Co-Sponsors)	Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart [R-FL], (23)	Sen. Hillary Clinton [D-NY], (12)
Status	Introduced: 03/05/07; Referred to House Committee on Energy and Commerce and House Committee on the Judiciary: 03/05/07; Referred to Energy and Commerce’s Subcommittee on Health: 03/06/07	Introduced: 03/05/07; Read twice and referred to Senate Committee on Finance: 03/05/07
Target Population	Legal immigrants	Same as House
Overview	Amends title XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to permit States the option of coverage of legal immigrants under the Medicaid Program and SCHIP	Same as House
Key Disparities Provisions	• Amends titles XIX (Medicaid) and XXI (Children’s Health Insurance) (SCHIP) of the Social Security Act to grant states the option of covering certain categories of eligible pregnant women and child resident aliens, including targeted low-income children, under the Medicaid and SCHIP programs.	Same as House
Costs/Financing	CBO estimate not currently available.	Same as House

Title	Border Health Security Act of 2007 [S.1798]
Sponsor, (Co-Sponsors)	Sen. Jeff Bingaman [D-NM], (3)
Status	Introduced: 07/17/07; Read twice and referred to Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: 07/17/07
Target Population	Border area residents
Overview	A bill to establish grant programs to improve the health of border area residents.
Key Disparities Provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires the Secretary of DHHS to award grants to states, local or tribal governments, trauma centers, regional trauma center coordinating entities, or public health entities for all hazards preparedness in the border area, including bioterrorism and infectious disease. • Allows the Secretary to coordinate with the Secretary of Homeland Security in establishing a health alert system that: (1) alerts clinicians and public health officials of emerging disease clusters and syndromes along the border area; and (2) is alerted to signs of health threats, disasters of mass scale, or bioterrorism along the border area. • Requires the Secretary to enter into a contract with the IOM for the study of binational health infrastructure (including trauma and emergency care) and health insurance efforts.
Costs/Financing	CBO estimate not currently available.

Title	Office of Men's Health Act of 2007 [H.R.789]
Sponsor, (Co-Sponsors)	Rep. Edolphus Towns [D-NY], (3)
Status	Introduced: 01/31/07; Referred to House Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Health: 02/02/07
Target Population	Men of color
Overview	A bill to establish the Office of Men's Health within DHHS.
Key Disparities Provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires the Secretary to collaborate with relevant federal agencies and offices to identify and report on men's health data, including health disparities for chronic diseases and health conditions related to men of color. • Requires the Secretary to make grants to institutions of higher education to: (1) conduct conferences on men's health; (2) conduct public education campaigns to reduce health disparities relating to men's health; (3) evaluate the effectiveness of resources that focus on men's health; and (4) report on the gaps and problems that men of color have in utilizing health resources. • Directs the Secretary to enter into an agreement with the IOM to conduct a study on men's health that includes information on racial and ethnic minority men and their health disparities. Requires the agreement to provide for the establishment of a panel of independent experts to assist in the conduct of the study by reviewing and providing guidance on appropriate outcomes and assessments for men's health and health disparities of men of color. • Requires the Director of AHRQ to include an analysis of available data on racial, ethnic, and geographic disparities in men's health in the annual report to Congress on health disparities.
Costs/Financing	CBO estimate not currently available.

Title	Mental Health Services for Veterans with Limited English Proficiency [H.R. 542]
Sponsor, (Co-Sponsors)	Rep. Hilda Solis [D-CA], (26)
Status	Introduced: 01/17/07; Hearings held by House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health: 04/26/07
Target Population	Veterans with limited English proficiency
Overview	A bill to require the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide mental health services in languages other than English for veterans with limited English proficiency.
Key Disparities Provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amends federal veterans' benefits provisions to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in providing counseling and other mental health services to a veteran who has limited proficiency in English, to ensure that such services are available in both English and a language in which that veteran is proficient, if requested by the veteran. • Requires the Secretary to implement a system by which persons with limited English proficiency can access services provided by the Department of Veterans consistent with, and without unduly burdening, the Department's fundamental mission. • Requires a report from the Secretary to the congressional veterans' committees on the implementation by the Department's Veterans Health Administration of a specified directive to implement prohibitions on discrimination on the basis of national origin for persons with limited English proficiency in federally-conducted programs and activities and in federal financial-assisted programs.
Costs/Financing	CBO estimate not currently available.

Title	Minority Diabetes Initiative Act [H.R.1031]
Sponsor, (Co-Sponsors)	Rep. Maxine Waters [D-CA], (42)
Status	Introduced: 02/13/07; Referred to House Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Health: 02/14/07
Target Population	Racial and ethnic minority groups
Overview	Amends the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants to provide treatment for diabetes in minority communities.
Key Disparities Provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amends the Public Health Service Act to allow the Secretary of DHHS to make grants to public and nonprofit private health care providers to provide treatment for diabetes in minority communities. Requires the Secretary to ensure that such grants cover a variety of diabetes-related health care services, including routine care for diabetic patients, public education on diabetes prevention and control, eye care, foot care, and treatment for kidney disease and other complications of diabetes.
Costs/Financing	CBO estimate not currently available.

Title	Diabetes Prevention Access and Care Act of 2007 [H.R.2210]
Sponsor, (Co-Sponsors)	Rep. Diana DeGette [D-CO], (68)
Status	Introduced: 05/08/07; Referred to House Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Health: 05/08/07
Target Population	Racial and ethnic minority groups
Overview	Amends the Public Health Service Act to prevent and cure diabetes and to promote and improve the care of individuals with diabetes for the reduction of health disparities within racial and ethnic minority groups.
Key Disparities Provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires the Director of the NIH to: (1) conduct, coordinate, and support research and other activities with respect to pre-diabetes and diabetes in minority populations; and (2) conduct and support programs to treat diabetes in minority populations. • Requires the Director of NIH, through the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities, to provide for: (1) health care professionals' mentoring; and (2) minority health professionals' participation in diabetes-focused research programs. • Directs the Diabetes Mellitus Interagency Coordinating Committee to develop and implement a federal plan to address diabetes mellitus within communities of color. • Requires the Secretary of DHHS, acting through the Director of the CDC, to: (1) conduct and support research and other activities with respect to diabetes in minority populations; (2) direct the Division of Diabetes Translation to conduct and support programs to educate the public on diabetes in minority populations; and (3) carry out diabetes health promotion and prevention programs for minority populations. • Directs the Secretary to carry out: (1) education and awareness programs designed to increase participation of minority populations in clinical trials; and (2) mentorship programs for minority researchers who are conducting research on diabetes in minority populations. • Provides for studies on the shortage of adult and pediatric endocrinologists specializing in diabetes and on outcomes of minority children with diabetes compared to non-minority children.
Costs/Financing	CBO estimate not currently available.

Glossary of Terms

AHRQ - Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

AOA - Administration on Aging

CBO - Congressional Budget Office

CDC - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CMS - Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

DHHS - Department of Health and Human Services

EPA - Environmental Protection Agency

FDA - Food and Drug Administration

GAO - U.S. Government Accountability Office

HRSA - Healthcare Resources and Services Administration

IHS - Indian Health Service

IOM - Institute of Medicine

NIH - National Institutes of Health

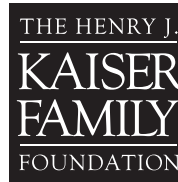
SAMHSA - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

SCHIP - State Children's Health Insurance Program

TCUs - Tribal Colleges and Universities

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