



**Testimony in Support of  
Proposed H.B. 5763: An Act Requiring the Streamlining of Health Data Collection**  
March 6, 2017

Submitted by: Tekisha Dwan Everette, PhD, Executive Director

I am writing to express support for Proposed H.B. 5763: An Act Requiring the Streamlining of Health Data Collection. As an organization seeking to achieve greater health equity in Connecticut, we believe it is imperative to uniformly collect race, ethnic, language, and zip code data across all agencies with any responsibilities related to health services, as well as hospitals. Furthermore, we support making this data publicly available in an aggregated and disaggregated, de-identified manner that allows for proper analysis of health care and health outcome trends in the state and that follows the appropriate data collection and reporting best practices.

Eradicating health inequities and health disparities must begin with a complete, accurate and full understanding of the problems in our state! We cannot change that which we do not know and we do not measure! Specifically, it does not help us move toward greater equity if we cannot identify patterns and trends in our health data by race, ethnicity, language and place. To resolve these issues, the state must be able to:

- Collect - in a uniform manner - race/ethnicity/language and place data that appreciates the rich diversity of lives and shifting demographics in the state of Connecticut; specifically ensure that data is collected in a way that allows for the selection of general racial categorization (i.e. Asian) as well as specific ethnic identification (i.e. Cambodian)
- Use multiple opportunities for ascertain this information (all applications should ask this in a non-invasive manner)
- Follow best practice standards for data collection and reporting, among and across agency systems

I am encouraged by the proposed legislation and look forward to seeing language that supports improved race/ethnicity/language and place data collection and reporting in Connecticut.

**ABOUT HEALTH EQUITY SOLUTIONS:** Health Equity Solutions, a nonprofit organization committed to promoting policies, programs, and practices that result in equitable health care access, delivery, and outcomes for all people in Connecticut. Our vision is for every Connecticut resident to obtain optimal health regardless of race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status. To achieve this vision, our state must align its systems to ensure we do not exclude or unduly harm the individuals and communities from obtaining optimal health.

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