

Federal Legislative and Agency Initiatives to Promote Language Access

Presentation by

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Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum,

Medical Leadership Council on Cultural Proficiency

Sacramento, CA

November 28, 2007



Federal Legislation

- SCHIP reauthorization
- Health Disparities legislation

Federal Legislation

- SCHIP reauthorization legislation would increase reimbursement to states to 75% or the state's enhance FMAP plus 5% for translation or interpretation services in connection with the enrollment of, retention of, and use of services by individuals for whom English is not their primary language. Medicaid funds can be used for this purpose as well at the same enhanced rates.



Health Disparities legislation

- *Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2007, H.R. 3014*
- *Minority Health Improvement and Health Disparity Elimination Act, S. 1576/H.R.3333*

H.R. 3014

- Title I—Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Health Care
 - Requires federal agencies to improve access for LEP persons
 - Codifies CLAS standards
 - Establishes the Robert T. Matsui Center for Cultural and Linguistic Competence in Health Care
 - Establishes a grant program for model language access programs
 - Provides 100% reimbursement under Medicaid and SCHIP for language assistance services and establishes a pilot program for Medicare plans



Other Provisions H.R. 3014

- Title II—Health Workforce Diversity
- Title III—Data Collection and Reporting
- Title VI—Accountability and Evaluation
- Title V—Improvement of Health Care Services



S. 1576/H.R. 3333

- Title I—Increasing Diversity and Cultural Competency in the Healthcare Workforce through Education and Training
 - Establishes an internet clearinghouse at the OMH to help providers increase cultural competency, improve communication between providers and patients, improve health care quality and patient satisfaction, reduce medical errors, provide standard translated documents



S. 1576/H.R. 3333

- Title II—Promoting Health and Healthcare Awareness and Access
 - Establishes grant programs or contracts to support demonstration projects to improve the health and health care of racial and ethnic minority groups through improved access to healthcare, patient navigators, and health literacy education and services
 - Codifies CDC REACH program



S. 1576/H.R. 3333, cont.

- Title III—Research to Reduce and Eliminate Disparities
- Title IV—Data Collection, Analysis and Quality
- Title V—Leadership, Collaboration, and National Action Plan
 - Reauthorizes OMH and requires it to develop and implement an HHS-wide plan to improve minority health and eliminate health disparities

HHS Initiatives

- HRSA On-line training tool to improve patient-provider communication

<http://www.hrsa.gov/healthliteracy/training.htm>

- OCR Initiative on hospitals and effective communication

<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hospitalcommunication.html>

Questions?

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