Hepatitis Foundation International Celebrates Introduction of Landmark Health Equity Legislation

The Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2014 advances a broadly supported and comprehensive agenda to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities

Silver Spring, MD – Today, Hepatitis Foundation International (HFI) is proud to celebrate the introduction of the Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA) of 2014 by the Congressional Tri-Caucus – comprised of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, the Congressional Black Caucus, and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus – and lead sponsor Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-40), the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Health Task Force Chair.

“I am honored to introduce the 113th Congress Health Equity and Accountability Act on behalf of my colleagues in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the Congressional Black Caucus, and the Congressional Asian and Pacific American Caucus. HEAA provides a consensus utopian blueprint of the most principled, comprehensive, and strategic plan to eliminate health disparities and improve the health of all communities. We believe that no one’s life expectancy should be determined by the color of their skin, or the zip code in which they are born. By adopting HEAA’s wide spectrum strategy of racial, ethnic, ability, language, and gender health disparity elimination initiatives, we hope to dramatically reduce the disproportionately high rates of premature death and preventable illness in our minority communities,” said Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-40), lead sponsor of HEAA of 2014.

HEAA of 2014 was introduced to Congress with the broad support of the Congressional Tri-Caucus, Hepatitis Foundation International (HFI) along with 350 national, state, and local organizations committed to health equity.

Karen Wirth, HFI’s Board Chair states, “As HFI strategically addresses the elimination of hepatitis disparities and positively impacting the health of this nation, it was important for us to support HEAA of 2014. More must be done to proactively address barriers based on factors such as immigration status, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and English proficiency.”

Since 2003, HEAA has been broadly supported as strategic legislation to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in healthcare access and health outcomes. HEAA of 2014 builds on the gains for health equity achieved by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and has been updated to reflect the latest, most comprehensive approaches to health disparities elimination.

Hepatitis Foundation International (http://www.HepatitisFoundation.org) - The Hepatitis Foundation International is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization established in 1994 working to eradicate chronic hepatitis for 500 million people globally. HFI is dedicated to increasing and promoting health and wellness, as well as, reducing the incidence of preventable liver-related chronic diseases and lifestyles that negatively impact the liver. Some of these diseases include; obesity, diabetes, hepatitis, substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, cardiovascular disease and fatty/liver cancer.

The Hepatitis Foundation International implements its mission through our touchstones to educate, prevent, serve, support and reach over 5 million patients and health care professionals annually through our public and private partnerships.

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