

37th National Black Nurses Day on Capitol Hill
Reimagining Health Equity: Addressing Ongoing Threats to America's Well-being

Addressing Economic Wellness to Promote Global Health Equity

The National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) serves as a national nursing body to influence legislation and policies that support comprehensive efforts to promote economic wellness and to pursue health equity by giving attention to the needs of those at greatest risk of poor health. Income inequality harms health as it contributes to chronic stress and can indirectly erode social cohesion, destabilize communities, and weaken institutions that protect health. ³ **NBNA calls on the 119th Congress to address** health inequities adversely impacting historically marginalized communities by supporting inclusive, asset-building policies. ⁷

Background

- There is an inequitable distribution of resources (economic and social), resulting in historically marginalized communities having a disproportionate burden of poor health and disease. ^{1,3,4,6,7}
 - There is a difference of **18 years** of life expectancy between high- and low-income countries.
 - White people have a net worth **7 times** that of Black people. ²
 - Almost **50%** of lower or average-income adults report cost-related problems accessing healthcare. ⁵
- Inequities in health are socially determined, preventing poorer populations from moving up in society and making the most of their potential ⁹
 - Those with impoverished childhoods were more likely to have higher rates of frailty later in life.
 - Low socioeconomic status (SES) was linked with mental disorders. (The lowest prevalence of these disorders was among those with higher SES) ¹
 - Low-income minorities with bad health have **68% less** odds of being insured than high-income White people with good health. ⁸

Recommendations to Legislators

NBNA calls upon the 119th Congress to support legislation such as:

- **S. 4773/H.R.9161 - Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2024**-To improve the health of minority individuals.
- **S. 4592/H. R. 5520 - Health Equity Innovation Act of 2024-** **To amend** the Public Health Service Act to award grants to faith- or community-based organizations to address persistent health inequities and chronic disease challenges.
- **S. 3744/H. R. 7292 – Health ACCESS Act-** To amend title XI of the Social Security Act to lower barriers to increase patient access to health care.

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