

**37th National Black Nurses Day on Capitol Hill
Reimagining Health Equity: Addressing ongoing threats to
America's well-being.**

Is AI the Answer to 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 address health inequities for all Americans. Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) technologies in healthcare represent a significant leap forward in innovation and efficiency,¹ but can amplify systemic biases.² AI/ML algorithms and metrics must be evidence-based and free from systemic biases.^{2,3,4} Nursing leaders are positioned to assist policymakers and data scientists in designing a standardized methodology for AI/ML to mitigate biases in predictive algorithms.⁵ **NBNA calls on the 119th Congress to support** legislation to address systemic biases in rapidly developing and expanding AI/ML technologies.

Background

- AI/ML technology used in healthcare (not evaluated by regulatory agencies) has been found to exacerbate health disparities.¹
- **63%** of organizations intend to adopt AI globally within the next three years, contributing an estimated **\$15.7 trillion** to the global economy by 2023.²
- **Federal guidelines** are needed to oversee AI/ML use in healthcare technologies (in 2023, **25** states, including Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, introduced AI/ML bills⁶).
- There is a need for peer-reviewed prospective evidence of AI/ML effects on patient care and the clinician experience, which pose several ethical and technical challenges.^{9, 10}
- Existing biomedical datasets inadequately reflect the composition of the U.S. population.⁵ (Closing these gaps will enhance data sharing and improve health equity for all⁵)
- AI promises to provide data-driven approaches to improve health outcomes, and nursing professionals must be positioned to use this technology effectively and ethnically.⁴

Recommendations to Legislators

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

- **S. 1564, the AI Leadership Training Act-** ensures a training program for federal management officials and supervisors, educating them on the benefits and risks posed by AI.
- **S. 293: Better Mental Health Care for Americans Act-** includes using AI/ML or other clinical decision-making technologies.
- **S. 5152: AI Civil Rights Act-** landmark legislation requiring algorithmic decision-making tools for bias evaluation.
- **H.R. 206: Health Technology Act of 2023-** establishes that AI/ML technologies may be eligible to prescribe drugs if authorized by the state and FDA.

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