



February 11, 2016

The Honorable Bill Pascrell
U.S. House of Representatives
2370 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC

The Honorable Cory Booker
U.S. Senate
359 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC

RE: Reducing Disparities Using Care Models and Education Act of 2015

Dear Representative Pascrell and Senator Booker:

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), which represents 120,900 family physicians and medical students across the country, I write to thank you for introducing the *Reducing Disparities Using Care Models and Education (REDUCE) Act of 2015* (HR 3285 / S 1903). I am pleased to inform you that the AAFP supports the legislation as consistent with AAFP [policy](#) on Health Equity.

The AAFP strongly advocates for the elimination of health disparities in the United States, including those that arise along lines of race, class, income, geography, language, or immigration status. Family medicine continues to play an integral role in America's effort to achieve not only access to health care for all, but also access to quality care, including equality of health outcomes.

The *REDUCE Act* would require the Institute of Medicine (IOM) to perform a detailed analysis on health disparities, followed by the HHS Secretary's development of guidelines for entities to implement programs to reduce disparities, and grants to entities to put the recommendations of the IOM into effect. The bill also would require the HHS Secretary (through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation) to test new payment and delivery models that will seek to reduce health disparities.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments. For any additional questions you might have about the AAFP's views on this legislation, please have your staff contact Andrew Adair, Government Relations Representative, at aadair@aafp.org.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Wergin, MD, FAAFP
Board Chair

www.aafp.org

President
Wanda Filer, MD
York, PA

President-elect
John Meigs, Jr., MD
Brent, AL

Board Chair
Robert L. Wergin, MD
Milford, NE

Directors
Yushu "Jack" Chou, MD, Baldwin Park, CA
Robert A. Lee, MD, Johnston, IA
Michael Munger, MD, Overland Park, KS
Mott Blair, IV, MD, Wallace, NC
John Cullen, MD, Valdez, AK
Lynne Lillie, MD, Woodbury, MN

John Bender, MD, Fort Collins, CO
Gary LeRoy, MD, Dayton, OH
Carl Olden, MD, Yakima, WA
Marie-Elizabeth Ramas, MD, (New Physician Member), Mount Shasta, CA
Richard Bruno, MD, (Resident Member), Baltimore, MD
Tiffany Ho (Student Member), Baltimore, MD

Speaker
Javette C. Orgain, MD
Chicago, IL

Vice Speaker
Alan Schwartzstein, MD
Oregon, WI

Executive Vice President
Douglas E. Henley, MD
Leawood, KS