

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Susan C. Fargo

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act to establish community based grant programs to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities in the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Susan C. Fargo

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Third Middlesex

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH COMMUNITY BASED GRANT PROGRAMS TO ELIMINATE RACIAL AND ETHNIC HEALTH DISPARITIES IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 111N of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
2 following section:—

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4 Section 7. (a) The office shall, subject to appropriation, administer a community-based
5 agency disparities reduction grant program. The grants shall support efforts by community-based
6 agencies to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities among predominantly underserved
7 populations, including efforts addressing social factors integral to such disparities. Grants shall
8 be awarded following a competitive application process. In awarding grants, the office shall give
9 priority to programs replicable by other community-based agencies. Grants shall be provided to a
10 broad range of agencies that support diverse communities throughout the state. No community-
11 based agency may receive more than one grant concurrently. All grants shall include an
12 evaluation component.

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14 (b) The program shall provide grants to community-based agencies and non-profit
15 community organizations to address key disparities issues including but not limited to: the social
16 and economic barriers that impact health outcomes, the development of a diverse healthcare
17 workforce across wide range of healthcare professions, increasing the access, utilization and
18 quality of healthcare services, and supporting community health workers to facilitate the use of
19 health and human services

20

21 (c) For the purposes of this section, a “community-based agency” shall include agencies
22 that provide direct services, education, or support to underserved populations, including
23 community health centers and hospitals, social service organizations, community nonprofit
24 organizations, educational institutions, faith based organizations and other non-governmental
25 agencies and other organizations as defined by the office.