



National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurse Associations

The National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurse Associations, (NCEMNA) a coalition of African-American, Hispanic, Native American, Asian-Pacific Islander, and Philippine nurse associations is a unified force advocating for equity and justice in nursing and health care for ethnic minority populations.

NCEMNA is concerned about the historic and continued disparities in health and health care. As an organization we are uniquely positioned to advocate for equity and justice in our communities. As nurses from these communities, we play a pivotal role in creating and advocating for effective solutions to address these disparities.

The National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurses supports the following priorities to be included in President Obama's health reform policy.

1. Affordable and accessible health care should be available to all individuals.
2. Meaningful health care reform must address quality of care and integrate the six principles of care recommended by the Institute of Medicine: client-centered, safe, effective, timely, efficient and equitable.
3. Equitable benefits must include preventive services, treatment and follow-up services that are culturally and linguistic appropriate for physical and mental health care.
4. Health care delivery should be designed to eliminate disparities in health and health care for racial and ethnic minorities.
5. Health care should be provided as an integral and pivotal component of all other impacting contributors, including housing, education, social services, transportation and economics, all which potentially affect health status.

We believe nurses, and in particular minority nurses, must be included in meaningful ways to lead the development and provision of culturally competent and effective health care. NCEMNA, through its coalition of nurse organizations, stands committed to improving the health status of all and in particular, to addressing the health disparities crises in our nation.