

May 12, 2023

The Honorable Adam Schiff
2309 Rayburn House
Office Building
Washington, DC 20515



Re: Support – H.R. 3068

Dear Representative Schiff,

L.A. Care Health Plan – the nation’s largest public plan with over 2.8 million Medi-Cal, Medicare Plus (Dual Eligibles), PASC- SEIU Homecare Workers, and Covered California (state based exchange) enrollees – writes in support of H.R. 3068 – which would make equal access to health care a protected civil right, addressing racial inequities and systemic failures in the United States medical system that continue to exacerbate health and mortality disparities among Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous communities.

The Equal Health Care for All Act will prohibit discrimination in health care by establishing a definition for “inequitable health care” to help ensure that hospitals provide the same high quality health care services to all patients, regardless of race, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, or religion. Additionally, the bill would also create a Federal Health Equity Commission to oversee the progress of health equity efforts. H.R. 3068 would create a formal office within the Health and Human Services department to enforce the consideration of health care as a protected civil right, improve data collection efforts to inform more equitable health care practices, and provide grants to encourage providers to practice equitable health care.

For far too long, inequities in our health care system have led to disproportionately worse health outcomes for women and people of color. Everyone deserves access to affordable, equitable health care, no matter who they are, who they love, or where they are from. However, for generations, America’s health care system has failed millions of people because of systemic barriers that stem directly from those biases. This bill aims to remedy structural and systemic failures in America’s health care system that have existed for centuries. Everyone deserves a healthy community in which all have access to the health care they need.

For these reasons, we applaud you for introducing H.R. 3068 and look forward to the passage of this much needed legislation.

Sincerely,

Joanne Campbell
L.A. Care Health Plan