

# Health Care For All

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Health care advocates concerned by federal disparities report** *Call on Massachusetts legislature to create racial disparities commission*

**(BOSTON, MA)**– A national health disparities report, *National Healthcare Disparities Report*, released yesterday by the Bush administration should prod the Massachusetts state government to develop a comprehensive state plan to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in the Commonwealth, according to Health Care For All (HCFA), a state-wide health care consumer advocacy group. A special commission to develop such a plan is still awaiting final legislative action.

“We are pleased that the Bush administration has released this long awaited report” says Daniel J. Delaney of Health Care For All’s Health Disparities Policy Initiative. “This report affords us the opportunity to bring disparities to the center of policy discussions. While we don’t agree with all the reports findings, we are pleased the administration is standing by its promise to focus on health disparities.”

“The national report denies the role of racial and ethnic discrimination in explaining poorer health outcomes. It contradicts the 2002 findings of the Institute of Medicine study *Unequal Treatment* which highlighted the role of racial and ethnic discrimination in the poorer health outcomes, higher morbidity and shortened life spans for Blacks, Latinos, and Native Americans,” Delaney went on to say.

In Massachusetts, Latinos are three times as likely to die from diabetes as their white counterparts. Black infant mortality is 250% higher than that of whites in the Commonwealth.

“Massachusetts needs a comprehensive, state-wide initiative that can begin to address such a wide-spread and deep-rooted problem. Health Care For All is working with House and Senate leaders to establish a Special Commission to Eliminate Disparities which will serve as the foundation for public/private partnerships and specific policies to address these problems” Delaney stated.

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