

TALKING POINTS

About Health Disparities

Meet Bronx Health REACH

- I am with Bronx Health REACH and I am here to ask for your help.
- Bronx Health REACH is a group of community organizations, like churches, health care providers, housing groups, after-school programs and community residents that speak for many people in the Bronx.
- Bronx Health REACH is asking that you help stop **health disparities**.

*What are **health disparities**?*

- **Health disparity** means that people of color live sicker and die younger than they should.
- **Health disparity** means people are not always given the health information they need, that they are often discriminated against by the health system, and that they don't always get the right care at the right time.
- This means that you will see more people with diabetes, more people getting amputations they don't need and other bad consequences.

*Why do the people of this community care about **health disparities**?*

- It is our family, friends, parishioners, co-workers and neighbors who are being harmed.
- **Health disparities** not only hurt us and take away the people we love, it is bad for families and the community because people die, or live sick and can't help themselves or the people who depend on them.

*What you can do about **health disparities**?*

- First, we want you to know the facts and understand how this problem affects the people you represent.
- You can look into how health facilities work and make sure they stop discriminating in the care they give.
- You can make sure that all health care providers are required to provide care equally to people regardless of their race or language, like having translators and showing respect for other cultures.
- You can provide funding to help get young people of color into the health professions.
- You can provide funds to educate the community about health issues that affect them.
- You can fight for health insurance **for all**.
- You can help end the high number of polluters in communities of color.

*Why you should do something about **health disparities**?*

- Bronx Health REACH is looking to its elected officials to do something and will celebrate those leaders who take action.
- When our work succeeds, lives will be saved and the health and well being of our community will be better.