**Structural Racism and Healthcare Equity: Addressing Societal Inequities**

Student’s Name

Institutional Affiliation

Course

Date

**Structural Racism and Healthcare Equity: Addressing Societal Inequities**

The problem of structural racism is not new to America, and the events of the year 2020 only exposed the alarming effects of racism in healthcare systems. The constant exposure of racial and ethnic minorities to the risks of contracting COVID-19 also supports the call for a more drastic approach towards the causes of these disparities.

In light of this emerging issue, I have gone through the materials shared, which entails the article on Health Equity Considerations and Racial and Ethnic Minority Groups and the activities of the TNA Nurse Action Center and the Texas Medical Association. Following some research, I have settled on the “Health Equity and Accountability Act” (HEAA) as a bill that is relevant to the negative effect of structural racism on minority communities’ ability to get and receive quality healthcare.

Introduced in the U. S. House of Representatives in 2021, the HEAA addresses various factors contributing to healthcare disparities, including data and information, workforce, language, and community engagement (TNA Nurse Action Center, 2021). The facts that make up the HEAA are clear, which examined that structural racism significantly affects racial and ethnic minority healthcare disparities (Yearby & Mohapatra, 2021; Hardeman et al., 2022). The key findings also support the HEAA’s emphasis on using targeted programming and an integrated model, as healthcare disparity issues are comprehensive and require extensive intervention.

In our capacity as healthcare workers, it is pertinent that we stand up for policies and crusades that fight for justice. The “Health Equity and Accountability Act” is the piece of work that can be treated as the next step in fighting structural racism in the sphere of healthcare and that has the potential to minimize social disparities and improve the sanitary state of racially and ethnically vulnerable populations.

**References**

Hardeman, R. R., Medina, E. M., & Kozhimannil, K. B. (2022). Structural racism and health inequities in the USA: evidence and interventions. *The Lancet,* 399(10323), 513-527.

TNA Nurse Action Center. (2021). Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA). https://www.tnacenter.com/health-equity-and-accountability-act-heaa/

Yearby, R., & Mohapatra, S. (2021). Law, structural racism, and the COVID-19 pandemic. *Journal of Law and the Biosciences*, 8(1), lsab005.