

May 5, 2021

Michelle Koo
612 East Magnolia Street
Stockton, California 95202

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

As a nursing student from California State University Stanislaus, I am writing to urge you to cosponsor Bill S. 783 - COVID Community Care Act. This bill provides supplemental appropriations for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to prevent and respond to COVID-19 in medically underserved communities.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began in January 2020, our country has been in crisis. Specifically, communities of color have been disproportionately impacted by this pandemic. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), studies have shown that 35% of COVID-19 deaths were among non-Hispanic Black people, though this group accounts for only 12% of the total U.S. population. The latest CDC report on COVID-19 vaccination demographics also reveals that among the group of vaccinated individuals, nearly two thirds were White (63%), 13% were Hispanic, 9% were Black, 6% were Asian and only 1% were American Indian. There is an inarguably significant racial disparity on this public health crisis and action needs to be taken.

Bill S. 783 will provide grants to empower community-based organizations and nonprofits to conduct diagnostic testing and contact tracing. This bill will also ensure equitable vaccine distribution and outreach activities in communities that historically lacked access to healthcare services.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Michelle Koo
Nursing Student

Citations

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2021, February 5). *Demographics Characteristics of Persons Vaccinated*. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7005e1.htm>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, December 10). *Disparities in Deaths from COVID-19*. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/health-equity/racial-ethnic-disparities/disparities-deaths.html>

Padilla, M. (2020, November 24). *Senator Elizabeth Warren to introduce \$8 billion relief bill to help underserved Americans during pandemic*. The 19th News. <https://19thnews.org/2020/11/elizabeth-warren-relief-bill/>