



Health Equity Compact

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Right People in the Right Places – Health Equity Compact Applauds Healey Administration Appointment

Compact Member, Dr. Kiame Mahaniah, Named Health & Human Services Undersecretary for Health

Boston, MA - March 14, 2023 - The Health Equity Compact (HEC), a coalition of Leaders of Color in health care, labor, business, academia and philanthropy advocating for breakthrough health reform, is excited to learn that Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) Secretary Kate Walsh has appointed Dr. Kiame Mahaniah as Undersecretary for Health. As one of the initial members of the HEC, Dr. Mahaniah has had a tremendous impact on the compact's early work, has had a significant legacy of fostering meaningful change, as well as promoting health and racial equity, while CEO of the Lynn Community Health Center.

“Dr. Mahaniah has a long history of improving health outcomes in communities of color through his work as a practitioner in Lawrence and at Lynn Community Health Center,” said Juan Fernando Lopera, co-founder of the HEC and Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer at Beth Israel Lahey Health *“He is deeply familiar with the shortcomings of our statewide and institutional policies in the Commonwealth in delivering equitable health outcomes to priority populations, as well as the social determinants of health that drive 80 percent of our health status.”*

Having a person of color in this critically important position at EOHHS is yet another step in the right direction for Massachusetts. His expertise, influence and advocacy in such an important role will support the Healey/Driscoll Administration's stated agenda related to health care access and affordability, equity, mental health and addressing workforce challenges. The HEC looks forward to working with Governor Healey, Secretary Walsh and now Undersecretary Mahaniah on unlocking the potential of all residents of the state to live safe and healthy lives.

“In launching this effort, we have repeatedly said that this movement is about the right people in the right places for the right time to make health equity a priority for Massachusetts,” said Atty. Michael Curry, also a co-founder of the HEC and President & CEO of the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers. *“Dr. Mahaniah is the right person, as he has been a pioneer in health equity, a longtime champion for primary care and the health safety net, and a leader in the move to value based health care.”*

The Compact is confident in Secretary Walsh's and Undersecretary Mahaniah's ability to elevate the shared responsibility of health equity with a prioritization on both immediate and long-term solutions to address deep-rooted health disparities in our state.

About the Health Equity Compact

The Health Equity Compact is a coalition of over 55 Black and Latinx leaders who seek to dismantle systemic barriers to equitable health outcomes for all residents of the Commonwealth. Compact members are high-level executives and experts from a diverse set of health, business, and labor organizations, including hospitals, health centers, payers, academic institutions, and public health. Its members are committed to eliminating health inequities as the next chapter of health reform.

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