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## Health Equity Compact Expands Membership to Over 70 Leaders of Color

*Membership grows, incorporating AAPI, Middle Eastern, immigrant and broader geographic representation*

**Boston, MA (May 16, 2023):** The Health Equity Compact, originally founded by 37 Black and Latinx leaders in health, business, philanthropic and labor organizations, has announced its expansion of membership to 71 leaders of color, now including AAPI and Middle Eastern leaders and greater geographic diversity across Massachusetts. With broadened representation, the Compact seeks to build on its current momentum towards dismantling longstanding barriers to equitable health outcomes for Massachusetts residents of color, most notably through its proposed landmark legislation.

With this expansion, the Compact will represent and address the unique and nuanced barriers to equitable health outcomes faced by additional communities of color and immigrant populations through a wider geographic reach as a coalition seeking comprehensive, transformative change to eradicate health inequity across the Commonwealth.

In its first year, the Compact has worked to raise awareness around health disparities and solutions, elevated the urgent need for health reform through statewide conversation, and filed transformative legislation to enact systemic policy changes.

With additional leaders representing a comprehensive intersection of identities from across the state, the Compact is excited to move forward with its bill, ***An Act to Advance Health Equity***. Introduced in January 2023, the legislation would help to advance health equity in Massachusetts based on three pillars: improving collection and reporting of health equity data, promoting equity and access in healthcare delivery, and prioritizing equity in state government.

“Solidarity and intersectionality have always been pillars of our work, and with this expansion we will hope to more broadly represent those who have been failed by our health system and recognize a greater need around the unique health-related challenges we face,” said **Dr. Nancy Norman**, Medical Director of Integration for the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership. “As we grow, our vision remains the same – to bring urgent and transformative change to our health and healthcare infrastructure to effect healthier futures for all Massachusetts residents.”

The following leaders representing health care, public health, business and academic institutions, have recently joined the Health Equity Compact:

- **Dr. Craig Andrade**, Associate Dean of Practice and Director of the Activist Lab, Boston University School of Public Health
- **Dr. Damian Archer**, Assistant Dean for Multicultural Affairs, Tufts University School of Medicine; Chief Health Equity Officer, Outer Cape Health Services

- **Dr. Mary Bassett**, Director, François Xavier Bagnoud (FXB) Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University
- **Dr. Monica Bharel**, Senior Public Health Advisor, Advanced Clinical Research Services
- **Dr. Carlos Capps**, Chief Behavioral Health Officer, Lynn Community Health Center
- **Dr. Matilde (Mattie) Castiel**, Commissioner for Health and Human Services, City of Worcester; Founder, Latin American Health Alliance
- **Dr. Sandro Galea**, Dean, Boston University School of Public Health
- **Helen Caulton-Harris**, Commissioner for Health and Human Services, City of Springfield
- **Dr. Gary Chu**, Vice President, Professional Affairs, New England College of Optometry; AAPI Commission
- **Javier A. Juarez**, Director, Latino Equity Fund
- **Dr. Kedar Mate**, President and CEO, Institute for Healthcare Improvement
- **Oz Mondejar**, Senior Business Executive
- **Mala M. Rafik**, Partner, Rosenfield & Rafik, P.C.
- **Angelina Ramirez**, CEO, Stavros Center for Independent Living
- **Dr. Chris Reddick**, Vice President and Head of U.S. Health Equity, Takeda
- **Vasundhra Sangar**, Vice President, Government Affairs, Associated Industries of Massachusetts
- **Dr. Neel Shah**, Chief Medical Officer, Maven Clinic; Co-Founder, March for Moms; Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School
- **Dr. Amie Shei**, President and CEO, Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts
- **Tuyet Tran**, Executive Director, Southeast Asian Coalition of Central Massachusetts
- **Dr. Paul Watanabe**, Professor of Political Science & Director of the Institute for Asian American Studies, University of Massachusetts Boston

“As a Vietnamese refugee and through decades of work in community health and behavioral health care, I have seen both the profound importance of community and the power of representation in conversations around equity,” said **Tuyet Tran**, Executive Director of the Southeast Asian Coalition of Central Massachusetts. “I am honored to join the Compact and heartened by its development to represent people like me. Through collaboration, community and collective action, we can bridge the gaps in health outcomes.”

“This is not just a gesture towards inclusion, but an actionable step towards racial justice and pragmatic health equity,” said **Dr. Monica Bharel**, Senior Public Health Advisor at Advanced Clinical. “By expanding its membership, the Compact has convened leaders with many identities, cultural backgrounds and areas of expertise around a shared, urgent mission of making equity the lens through which we make all health decisions in Massachusetts. I’m proud to work alongside such a diverse and action-oriented coalition as we commit ourselves to a future where positive health outcomes are accessible to all.”

### **About the Health Equity Compact**

The Health Equity Compact is a coalition of over 70 leaders of color 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, philanthropic and labor organizations, including hospitals, health centers, payers, academic

institutions, and public health. Its mission is to realize bold statewide policy and institutional practice changes that center racial justice and health equity. Its members are committed to eliminating health inequities as the next chapter of health reform. For more information, visit [www.healthequitycompact.org/](http://www.healthequitycompact.org/).

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