HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 1745 FILED ON: 1/20/2011

HOUSE . . . . . No. 1518

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jeffrey Sánchez and Byron Rushing

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying:

An Act to establish community based grant programs to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities in the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Jeffrey Sánchez	*15th Suffolk*
Byron Rushing	*9th Suffolk*
Kay Khan	*11th Middlesex*
Susan C. Fargo	☐ *[District]* ☐
Linda Dorcena Forry	*12th Suffolk*
Martin J. Walsh	*13th Suffolk*
James B. Eldridge	☐ *[District]* ☐

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By Messrs. Sánchez of Boston and Rushing, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1518) of Jeffrey Sánchez and others for legislation to establish community based grant programs to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act to establish community based grant programs to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities in the Commonwealth.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 111N of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:–

Section 7. (a) The office shall, subject to appropriation, administer a community-based agency disparities reduction grant program. The grants shall support efforts by community-based agencies to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities among predominantly underserved populations, including efforts addressing social factors integral to such disparities. Grants shall be awarded following a competitive application process. In awarding grants, the office shall give priority to programs replicable by other community-based agencies. Grants shall be provided to a broad range of agencies that support diverse communities throughout the state. No community-based agency may receive more than one grant concurrently. All grants shall include an evaluation component.

(b) The program shall provide grants to community-based agencies and non-profit community organizations to address key disparities issues including but not limited to: the social and economic barriers that impact health outcomes, the development of a diverse healthcare workforce across wide range of healthcare professions, increasing the access, utilization and quality of healthcare services, and supporting community health workers to facilitate the use of health and human services

(c) For the purposes of this section, a “community-based agency” shall include agencies that provide direct services, education, or support to underserved populations, including community health centers and hospitals, social service organizations, community nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, faith based organizations and other non-governmental agencies and other organizations as defined by the office.