

# ASSEMBLY HEALTH COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### ASSEMBLY, No. 2204

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 1, 2000

The Assembly Health Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2204.

This bill renames the New Jersey Office on Minority Health in the Department of Health and Senior Services, which was established pursuant to P.L.1991, c.401 (N.J.S.A.26:2-160 et seq.), as the New Jersey Office on Multicultural Health.

The bill also provides explicit statutory authority for the office to carry out additional responsibilities beyond those currently outlined in P.L.1991, c.401. These include:

- C development of a clearinghouse to collect racial and ethnic minority and gender specific health data on a county-by-county basis and disseminate it upon request to interested parties;
- C advocating effective measures to lead to the elimination of disparities among the various racial and ethnic populations of this State and gender-based disparities with respect to access to high-quality health care and health status;
- C studying and making recommendations regarding the training of health care professionals in the provision of culturally competent health care, including, but not limited to, recommendations for the adoption of cultural competency courses by colleges of medicine and dentistry in this State that are designed to address the problem of race, ethnic and gender-based disparities in health care treatment decisions;
- C development of recommendations for the most effective means of providing outreach to racial and ethnic minority communities throughout the State to ensure their maximum participation in publicly funded health benefits programs;
- C seeking to establish a Statewide alliance with community-based agencies and organizations, health care facilities, health care provider organizations and pharmaceutical manufacturers to promote the objectives of the office; and
- C evaluating multicultural or racial and ethnic minority health programs in other states to assess their efficacy and potential for replication in this State and making recommendations regarding the adoption of such programs, as appropriate.