

# SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### SENATE, No. 10

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 25, 2000

The Senate Health Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 10.

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 Minority and 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 providing grants to community-based organizations to support ongoing community-based programs that are designed to reduce or eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities in the State;
- C development of a clearinghouse to collate and organize racial and ethnic minority 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 with respect to access to high-quality health care, utilization of health care services and health status;
- C working collaboratively with colleges of medicine and dentistry in this State and other health care professional training programs to develop cultural and language competency courses that are designed to address the problem of racial and ethnicity disparities in health care access, utilization, treatment decisions, quality and outcomes;
- 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, managed care 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.

The bill appropriates \$1.5 million from the General Fund to the Office on Minority and Multicultural Health to carry out the work of the office and to implement these added responsibilities. The bill also specifies that it is the intent of the Legislature that in succeeding fiscal years, \$1.5 million shall be appropriated to the office and that this amount shall be in addition to any amounts allocated to the office in the fiscal year 2001 annual appropriations act.