

## **The Affordable Care Act Is a Progressive Universal Healthcare Strategy Addressing Healthcare Disparities Among Black Women and Girls**

**WHEREAS**, African Americans suffer from several chronic illnesses at higher rates than non-Hispanic and white Americans,

- They have the highest mortality rate of any racial and ethnic group for [cancer](#) generally and for most major cancers individually, including stomach, liver, prostate, and colon cancers<sup>1</sup>;
- Even though the rate of breast cancer incidence is 10 percent lower among African American women, they are 40 percent more likely to die from the disease<sup>2</sup>; earlier screening and detection for African American women could help reduce this death rate;

**WHEREAS**, about [10.4 million](#) African Americans, including 3.9 million adult African American women, no longer have lifetime or annual limits on their health insurance coverage thanks to the Affordable Care Act;

**WHEREAS**, nearly eight million African Americans with a preexisting health condition are no longer at risk of being denied coverage since the ACA prohibits insurers from denying someone coverage or charging them more because of a pre-existing condition;

**WHEREAS**, more than [500,000](#) African American young adults between ages 19 and 26 who would have been uninsured, including 230,000 African American women, now have coverage under their parents' employer-sponsored or individually purchased health insurance plan; *and*

**WHEREAS**, private plans in the Health Insurance Marketplace are required to cover 10 [essential health benefit](#) categories, including, women's reproductive health, maternity and newborn care; over [390,000](#) African American women in the individual market alone are projected to gain maternity coverage thanks to the Affordable Care Act;

**FURTHER**, systemic, structural and culturally competent considerations have been put in place to include:

- A more diverse health care workforce with more than doubling of the National Health Service Corps. African American physicians now make up about 18 percent of Corps physicians, a percentage that greatly exceeds their 6 percent share of the national physician workforce;
- Investments made in data collection and research to better understand the causes of health care disparities and develop effective programs to address them;
- The \$11 billion allocation in the Affordable Care Act for the nearly [1,300](#) community health centers has increased the number of patients served by nearly 5 million. Nearly one of every four patients at a health center is African American.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that in the best interest of eliminating health care disparities among Black Women and girls, that the members of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. in 62 chapters across the country will call upon the elected officials in the state, local and national assemblies to retain the Affordable Care Act in tact; *and*

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER *RESOLVED***, that Coalition members will monitor all legislative activity to ensure that the Affordable Care Act is not depreciated and/or repealed and that all health care plans include funding for women's healthcare choices to include prevention and reproductive support.

<sup>1</sup>NCI 2013. Seer Cancer Statistics Review, 1975-2010. Table 1.21.  
[http://seer.cancer.gov/csr/1975\\_2010/sections.html](http://seer.cancer.gov/csr/1975_2010/sections.html)

<sup>2</sup> NCI 2013. Seer Cancer Statistics Review, 1975-2010. Table 4.19.  
[http://seer.cancer.gov/csr/1975\\_2010/sections.html](http://seer.cancer.gov/csr/1975_2010/sections.html)

**Submitted by the NCBW Public Policy Committee**

---