

# THE CASE AGAINST HJR24 (REP. ODA)

## PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACTS COULD BE CONSIDERABLE

A Utah Health Policy Project Fact Sheet

March 4, 2010

### SUMMARY

Before voting on HJR24 (Rep. Oda), *House Joint Resolution on Equal Treatment by Government*, policymakers should consider the consequences, intended and not, for efforts to deliver appropriate and cost-effective health care to Utah's growing ethnic communities. Based on experience in California and Michigan, where similar measures have been enacted, this proposed amendment to the Utah Constitution could threaten nascent efforts to prepare young people for careers in the health professions as well as undermine public health initiatives aimed at reducing health disparities, including tobacco prevention and obesity programs.

### HEALTH PROFESSIONS FAR LESS DIVERSE THAN UTAH POPULATION

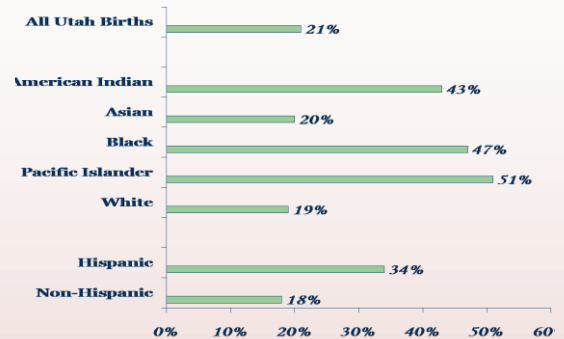
The medical community has long maintained that health professions should be as diverse as the surrounding community. Race 'concordant' visits are longer by several minutes and are associated with positive patient affect and better compliance with treatment (Cooper et al., 2003; LaVeist, Carroll, 2002). Health professional training schools do not use quota systems, not only because they are unfair but also because they don't work. Still, professional schools find they don't have enough qualified applicants from historically under-represented groups. The answer is to reach back to the grade-school level and prepare minority children to excel in math and science. These 'pipeline' initiatives could be threatened by HJR24.

### IMPACTS ON EFFORTS TO DELIVER QUALITY CARE ACROSS CULTURAL BARRIERS

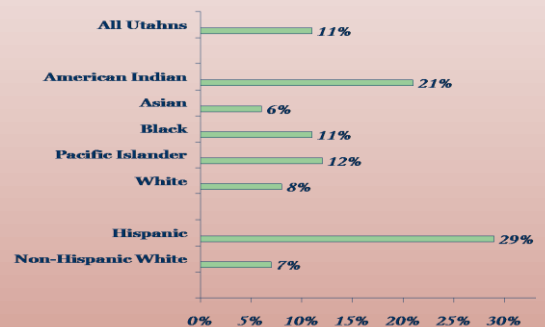
HJR 24 could undermine both cultural/linguistic competency initiatives and public health programs' efforts to target communities impacted by health disparities (*see examples, at right*).

### AREAS AT RISK BY HJR24

#### LATE OR NO PRENATAL CARE...

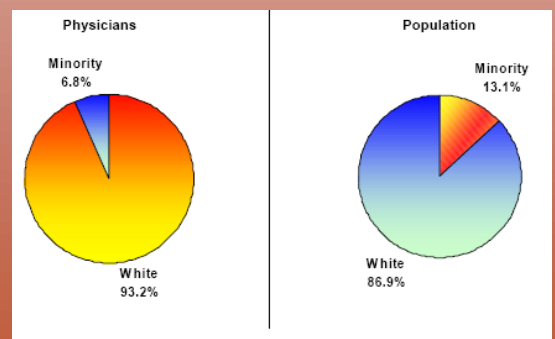


#### LACKING INSURANCE COVERAGE...



Utah Dept of Health, Center for Multicultural Health (2009)

#### UTAH MD & POPULATION RACE DISTRIBUTION



Utah Medical Education Council (2006). *Utah's Physician Workforce: A Study on the Supply & Distribution of Physicians in Utah.*

## REFERENCES

Cooper, Roter, Johnson, Ford, Steinwachs, Powe (2003). *Patient-Centered Communication, Ratings of Care, and Concordance of Patient and Physician Race*. *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 139 (11), 907-915.

LaVeist, Carroll (2002). *Race of Physician and Satisfaction with Care Among African American Patients*. *Journal of the National Medical Association*, 94 (11), 937-943.