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Florida House Passes Bill Requiring Greater Transparency from State on Medicaid Managed Care Plan Data

Tallahassee, Fla – [HB 855](#) would require the Agency for Health Care Administration to report data broken down by race, ethnicity, and other demographics—a key strategy to addressing treatment disparities.

Representative Robin Bartleman (D-Weston) today announced House passage of legislation she sponsored ([HB 855](#)) that would help to reduce health and health care disparities by shedding light on how Medicaid Managed Care Plans are serving Floridians across race, ethnicity, and other demographics.

The Senate companion bill ([SB 1258](#)), sponsored by **Senator Shevrin Jones (D-Miami Gardens)**, is ready for a floor vote.

Specifically, [HB 855](#) would require the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to disaggregate or break down Medicaid Managed Care Plans' performance measure data based on race, ethnicity, disability, and other demographics; to publicly report these measures; and to use these measures to monitor plan performance.

The measures that AHCA would have to make publicly available under [HB 855](#) include, among numerous others, data on prenatal care, comprehensive diabetes care, medication management for people with asthma, and follow-up care after ER visits due to drug dependence and mental illness.

As the nonpartisan Florida Policy Institute (FPI) notes in a 2019 report, the Medicaid program provides a unique opportunity to address racial and ethnic health disparities. Thirty-five percent of Medicaid enrollees are Hispanic and 25 percent are Black, and most are enrolled in managed care plans.

“I’m proud to sponsor this common-sense legislation, which will give us some much-needed insight into health and health care disparities in Florida,” said **Representative Bartleman**. “Requiring greater transparency around how managed care plans are serving Medicaid recipients across different demographics

can help guide decisions we make at the state level to ensure state health dollars are being spent effectively and efficiently.”

“We know that health disparities are a problem in Florida, but without more data from our Medicaid providers, we will never be able to tackle them effectively,” added **Senator Shevrin Jones**. “I appreciate the bipartisan support for this bill — it shows that all of us care about better understanding and addressing health disparities in Florida, and holding Medicaid providers to high standards for all Floridians, no matter your race, ethnicity, preferred language or disability status.”

“Our health care system is in dire need of repair, and existing disparities were only exacerbated with the rise of COVID,” said **Sadaf Knight**, CEO of Florida Policy Institute (FPI). “Having publicly available data on things like hospital readmissions and child well-care check-ups by race, ethnicity, and other demographics should drive policy-making decisions that reduce disparities and improve the health and well-being of every Floridian.”

In recent years, while AHCA has reported significant improvement on managed care plans’ performance measures, it does not tell the whole story — there is no requirement in Florida law that AHCA collect and report this data broken down by race, ethnicity, primary language, sex or disability. Experts agree that collection of this stratified data is an essential first step for developing targeted strategies to eliminate health disparities.

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