

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Department of Public Health Powers and
5 Duties Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois is
6 amended by adding Section 216 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 2310/216 new)

8 Sec. 216. Culturally Competent Healthcare Demonstration
9 Program.

10 (a) Research demonstrates that many minority groups
11 receive health care that is of a lesser quality than the
12 majority population and have poorer health outcomes on a number
13 of measures. The 2007 State Health Improvement Plan calls for
14 increased cultural competence in Illinois health care
15 settings, based on national standards that indicate cultural
16 competence is an important aspect of the quality of health care
17 delivered to racial, ethnic, religious, and other minority
18 groups experiencing disparate health outcomes as a result of a
19 lack of culturally sensitive health care. Based on the research
20 and national standards, the General Assembly finds that
21 increasing cultural competence among health care providers
22 will improve the quality of health care delivered to minorities
23 in Illinois.

1 (b) Subject to appropriation for this purpose, the
2 Department shall establish the Culturally Competent Health
3 Care Demonstration Program. For purposes of this Section,
4 "culturally competent health care" means the ability of health
5 care providers to understand and respond to the cultural and
6 linguistic needs brought by patients to the health care
7 encounter. The Program shall establish models that reflect best
8 practices in culturally competent health care and that expand
9 the delivery of culturally competent health care in Illinois.

10 (c) The Program shall consist of (i) demonstration grants
11 awarded by the Department to public or private health care
12 entities geographically distributed around the State; (ii) an
13 ongoing collaborative learning project among the grantees; and
14 (iii) an evaluation of the effect of the demonstration grants
15 in improving the quality of health care for minorities. The
16 Department may contract with a vendor with experience in racial
17 and ethnic health disparities and cultural competency to
18 conduct the evaluation and provide support for the
19 collaborative learning project. The vendor shall be a
20 not-for-profit organization that represents a partnership of
21 public, private, and voluntary health organizations that
22 focuses on prevention, development of the public health system,
23 and reduction of racial and ethnic health disparities, and that
24 engages health disparities stakeholders in its efforts.

25 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
26 becoming law.