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“Building Trust in Healthcare: Fostering a new relationship between healthcare and the Black community in the United States through C.A.R.E. - Community, Access, Representation, and Education.”

Audience: Joint Board of Directors for the American Medical Association (AMA), the American Hospital Association (AHA), and the National Medical Association (NMA)

Executive Summary:

Health disparity is one of the many barriers the Black community faces due to a history of systemic racism. Socio-economic factors, lack of cultural knowledge, and implicit biases in medical professionals result in poorer care, and a disproportionately higher percentage of black Americans affected by chronic illnesses, shorter life expectancy, and numerous other negative patient outcomes.

Central to our argument is that improving patient outcomes for black Americans is contingent on fostering their trust in the healthcare system, and the C.A.R.E strategy is focused on doing exactly that. The AMA, AHA, and NMA all hold health equity as their mission statement, and we are asking them to come together to form a coalition to spearhead these efforts.

The C.A.R.E strategy is built upon four key pillars: Community, Access, Representation, and Education. Community healthcare trust, health literacy and resource knowledge will be enhanced through health hubs. Patient access will be facilitated through the creation of health equity specialist roles in hospitals. Black representation among medical professionals will be increased by revamping the existing pathway programs in medical schools. Reducing implicit biases in medical education and among healthcare workers will be attained through diversity education and Implicit Association Testing. By expanding support systems through outreach and evolving diversity practices in healthcare, we aim to foster trust and build a new relationship between healthcare and the Black community.

We urge the Joint Board of Directors to support our initiative and take proactive steps towards implementing these recommendations, thereby advancing health equity, and strengthening the healthcare system for generations to come. Together, let us embark on this transformative journey towards building trust and fostering a brighter, healthier future for all.