



# The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and Minority Health

---

Creshelle R. Nash, MD, MPH  
UAMS College of Public Health  
UAMS College of Medicine  
**Senate and House Committee**  
**on**  
**Insurance and Commerce**  
September 26, 2012



# The Affordable Care Act

---

- The ACA represents unprecedented opportunity to improve the health of all Arkansans
- It has many provisions to health address health disparities
- We have yet to see impact on those most in need



# Minority Health in Arkansas

---

- Health ranking of 47<sup>th</sup> in the US
  - 29% of 18-64 population uninsured
- Minority Arkansans bear a disproportionate portion of that burden with higher rates of uninsured people and higher death rates from everything from infant mortality to cancer, diabetes, heart disease, stroke and HIV
- Sen. Crumbly- Sub-Committee on Minority Health
  - Stories that illustrate the statistics
  - Life and death stories and unmet need in the community for everything from acute care, medications, preventive care and mental health services



# Provisions to Address Health Disparities

---

- Specific:
  - Data Collection and Quality Improvement
  - Workforce Distribution and Diversity
  - Cultural Competency Education
  - Research on Health Disparities
- General:
  - Expanding Access to Health Insurance



# Expanding Access

---

- Health Benefits Exchange
  - On-line Market Place for Insurance
    - Small Business and Individuals
  - State/Federal Partnership Exchange- 3 states
  - **Consumer Assistance Advisory Committee**
    - **How we design and implement the system matters**
    - **Navigation/In-Person Assistors**
- Medicaid Expansion
  - 138% Federal Poverty Level
  - Individuals and families of 4 making \$15,145 or \$31,809 per year, respectively
  - 250,000 people
  - **Experience in other States**



# In Conclusion

---

- We want to ensure that everyone has a opportunity to attain his or her full health potential
- We know that insurance coverage is a necessary component in that process
- While we recognize the economic challenges, the ACA is an investment in the future of Arkansas and its people