



Zeta-Sigma Project Vote

Bonus Points Program Reporting Form

Please complete this form and mail it to your State Z-HOPE Coordinator in order to receive Z-Points.

Complete a form for each activity.

Chapter/Auxiliary Name: _____ State: _____ Region: _____

Chapter Basileus/Auxiliary President: _____

Z-HOPE Coordinator/Chair: _____

ZETA SIGMA PROJECT VOTE Program Chair: _____
(if different than Z-HOPE Coordinator/Chair)

Chapter/Auxiliary Contact Information:

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone (Project Vote Program Chair): _____ E-mail (Project Vote Program Chair): _____

Program Information:

Date of Program: _____

Location: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Number of non-members people in attendance: _____

Was information on health disparities discussed? Yes ___ No ___

Was legislation/government intervention relating to health disparities discussed? Yes ___ No ___

of **Phi Beta Sigma** members present at this activity? _____

of **Zeta Phi Beta** members present at this activity? _____

Persons registered to vote at the event _____

Comments (Please provide feedback or suggestions for future ZETA SIGMA PROJECT VOTE events. Use back of form if necessary.)



Zeta Sigma Project Vote

Zeta Sigma Project Vote is not only an excellent program to inform our communities about public policy and its impact on health disparities, it is an opportunity for your chapter or auxiliary group to earn bonus Z-Points.

How to Earn Z-Points

1. **50 Bonus Points** will be awarded to chapters/auxiliaries that conduct a Zeta Sigma Project Vote program between **June 1 and December 31, 2007**. { **Need at least 4 Zetas & 2 Sigmas in attendance** }
2. **To be eligible for bonus Z-Points the Zeta Sigma Project Vote Program Reporting Form must submit the completed and signed form NO LATER THAN January 15, 2008.**
3. A Zeta Sigma Project Vote Program Reporting Form must be completed and signed for EACH participating chapter/event. **May receive bonus for each event meeting bonus criteria.**
4. Chapters/auxiliaries will earn Z-Points for participating in the overall program NOT for each event.
5. **ALL Zeta Sigma Project Vote programs MUST be reported on the Program Reporting Form.** No other form can be used. Additional copies of the Zeta Project Vote Program Reporting Form can be photocopied or downloaded from the sorority Web site at www.zphib1920.org. Do not use the Z-HOPE participant evaluation forms.
6. A Project Vote program can be used as a Z-HOPE for women, men, youth or seniors activity (mind). However, if it is not conducted between June 1 and December 31, the program must meet the standard Z-HOPE activity requirements (a minimum of 30 minutes long with at least 20 non-Zeta, non-Amicae participants). The regular Z-HOPE Chapter Reporting Form AND Evaluation Forms should be used.

Health Disparities

Local, state and national governments can play a significant role in eliminating health disparities. They can implement policies which ensure a diverse cadre of health professionals in all communities, fund research and outreach to discover the roots of disparities and educate communities, or mandate cross cultural training for physicians.

This year, Zeta Sigma Project Vote allows chapters to empower and educate our communities about the health disparities that exist, and how we can influence government intervention.

There has also been federal legislation introduced on health disparities. S 1580, the Healthcare Equality and Accountability Act of 2005, sponsored by Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI) would expand health coverage, remove language and cultural barriers, and expand workforce diversity among medical professionals.

Possible Activities Include:

- **Z-HOPE: Voter Registration Project {NEW}**
- **Z-HOPE: Meeting the Candidates**
- **Z-HOPE: Election Night Counts**
- Organizing a Day at City Hall and brief staff and legislators on the issue.
- Meet with your state/federal legislators and encourage/promote legislation on the topic
- Hold a health-related ZHOPE program and include a section on local, state and national health disparities legislation.
- Conduct a community letter writing campaign or have citizens commit to calling/faxing their legislator on the same day to encourage bill co sponsorship, or thank them if they are already a co sponsor. (See attached for phone, fax numbers, and sample letters)

Zeta Sigma Project Vote Background on Disparities and Communicating with Congress



In 2002 the Institute of Medicine released a report entitled *Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Healthcare*. Below is a summary of the report.

General

Increase awareness of racial and ethnic disparities in healthcare among the general public and key stakeholders. Increase healthcare providers' awareness of disparities. Legal, Regulatory, and Policy Interventions Avoid fragmentation of health plans along socioeconomic lines. Strengthen the stability of patient-provider relationships in publicly funded health plans. Increase the proportion of underrepresented U.S. racial and ethnic minorities among health professionals. Apply the same managed care protections to publicly funded HMO enrollees that apply to private HMO enrollees. Provide greater resources to the U.S. DHHS Office for Civil Rights to enforce civil rights laws.

Health Systems Interventions

Promote the consistency and equity of care through the use of evidence-based guidelines. Structure payment systems to ensure an adequate supply of services to minority patients, and limit provider incentives that may promote disparities. Enhance patient-provider communication and trust by providing financial incentives for practices that reduce barriers and encourage evidence-based practice. Support the use of interpretation services where community need exists. Support the use of community health workers. Implement multidisciplinary treatment and preventive care teams.

Patient Education and Empowerment

Implement patient education programs to increase patients' knowledge of how to best access care and participate in treatment decisions.

Cross-Cultural Education in the Health Professions

Integrate cross-cultural education into the training of all current and future health professionals.

Data Collection and Monitoring

Collect and report data on health care access and utilization by patients' race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and where possible, primary language. Include measures of racial and ethnic disparities in performance measurements. Monitor progress toward the elimination of healthcare disparities. Report racial and ethnic data by OMB categories, but use subpopulation groups where possible. Research Needs

Conduct further research to identify sources of racial and ethnic disparities and assess promising intervention strategies. Conduct research on ethical issues and other barriers to eliminating disparities.

Communicating with Congress-Helpful Hints:

- When communicating with your Senators' offices, do not mail the attached sample letters, either fax the letter, or call to express your concern. Security is heightened so mail is extremely slow, or may not arrive intact.
- You must include your full name and address on each letter that is sent, and write legibly. If your address is illegible or incomplete, the staff will discard your correspondence.