

2026 Policy Agenda

UConn
HEALTH

HEALTH DISPARITIES
INSTITUTE

The [Health Disparities Institute \(HDI\)](#) at UConn Health has a legislative mandate to enhance research and the delivery of care to minority and medically underserved communities of Connecticut.

To fulfill this mandate, we partner with community residents and organizations, using participatory approaches to identify and prioritize health equity needs. HDI's 2026 policy agenda builds on this work:

Our [Menopause Equity Initiative](#) aims to elevate menopause as a public health and health equity issue by centering the lived experiences of those most affected by menopause, especially women of color.

Our partnership with the Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health (CREPH) to develop their [strategic plan](#) calls for protecting and promoting affordable and accessible healthcare, particularly among people of color.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Menopause Equity

- Implement a statewide menopause screening and treatment pathway and clinical toolkit, including free, optional training modules for a range of health professionals.
- Recognize menopause as a qualifying condition for reasonable workplace accommodations like flexible start times, temperature control, and restorative spaces.

Healthcare Affordability

- Strengthen hospital financial assistance policies and solutions to prevent and reduce medical debt.
- Fund existing statute (PA-23-186) that requires Medicaid reimbursement for community health workers.
- Study a public option for health insurance coverage, especially for those losing access due to federal changes.
- Protect HUSKY eligibility for all CT residents, regardless of immigration status.

Vision: *Equitable health, education, and economic opportunity for all in Connecticut.*

Mission: *Advance systemic change by tackling root causes of health inequities and implementing sustainable solutions through interdisciplinary community-based participatory research partnerships, data-driven community action, & workforce development efforts with communities disproportionately impacted by inequities.*



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