

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 racial and ethnic  
11 minorities generally receive health care that is of a lesser  
12 quality than the majority population and have poorer health  
13 outcomes on a number of measures. The 2007 State Health  
14 Improvement Plan calls for increased cultural competence in  
15 Illinois health care settings, based on national standards that  
16 indicate cultural competence is an important aspect of the  
17 quality of health care delivered to racial, ethnic, religious,  
18 and other minorities. Based on the research and national  
19 standards, the General Assembly finds that increasing cultural  
20 competence among health care providers will improve the quality  
21 of health care delivered to minorities in Illinois.

22 (b) Subject to appropriation for this purpose, the  
23 Department shall establish the Culturally Competent Health

1 Care Demonstration Program. For purposes of this Section,  
2 "culturally competent health care" means the ability of health  
3 care providers to understand and respond to the cultural and  
4 linguistic needs brought by patients to the health care  
5 encounter. The Program shall establish models that reflect best  
6 practices in culturally competent health care and that expand  
7 the delivery of culturally competent health care in Illinois.

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

23 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
24 becoming law.