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## *The Health Equity and MENA Community Inclusion Act*

Too often, federal data collection overlooks Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) communities, leaving their unique health concerns underreported and unaddressed. The “Health Equity and MENA Community Inclusion Act” will ensure MENA communities have better access to the resources they need.

### **The Problem**

- Data disaggregation creates a more accurate understanding of trends and patterns in racial and ethnic data and is critical for identifying and addressing health disparities.
- The Office of Minority Health at the Department of Health and Human Services does not currently include a category for people of MENA ancestry in their definitions of racial and ethnic minorities. As a result, people in MENA communities are often misidentified as White.
- This bureaucratic oversight causes MENA populations to be overlooked for targeted minority public health programs and resources.

### **What the Bill Would Do:**

- Add a Middle Eastern and North African category to the definition of racial and ethnic minorities used by the Office of Minority Health.
- Require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct or commission a report on MENA health disparities.