

# Bill would target health care gaps

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adequate funding," Landrieu said. "In my own state of Louisiana, we have communities that are addressing their own needs through innovative programs that increase access to quality health care for everyone. This legislation builds on efforts like those."

Sen. Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) has also introduced similar legislation.

"Hopefully, we can come together to close the gap," Landrieu said.

On average, African Americans and American Indians/Alaska Natives have higher overall rates of death than any other racial or ethnic group. American Indians/Alaska Natives, African Americans and Hispanics are more likely to report poor health. Infant mortality rates, which are one of the most sensitive indicators of health and well being of a population, are significantly higher in African Americans, American Indians, and Alaska Natives.

The Closing the Health Care Gap Act builds on previous legislation authored by Frist, including the Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Education Act, which was signed into law in 2000.

The legislation's sponsors hope the bill will improve the overall quality of care, expand access to care, enhance research opportunities, and foster innovative outreach programs to address health care disparities. It is also touted as a tool to strengthen leadership at the local and national level, and promote the diversity of

the nation's health care workforce.

The bill has the support of leading health organizations, including the predominantly-black National Medical Association, Interamerican College of Physicians and Surgeons, Association of Minority Health Professional Schools, National Hispanic Medical Association, and National

Urban League.

Former U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary and Morehouse School of Medicine President Emeritus Louis W. Sullivan M.D., former sur-



Sullivan



Satcher

geon general David Satcher M.D., and presidents of Morehouse College School of Medicine and Meharry Medical School have endorsed the bill.

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## WBAV's talent search

*Fly on the Wall is a column dedicated to rumor, innuendo and a smattering of truth for those of you who don't know better. We don't like writing disclaimers, but the legal eagles at Dewey Cheatham and Howe insist.*

WBAV-FM doesn't have a Fly Jock, but that's not keeping the Infinity Broadcasting station from being clever.

WBAV is holding auditions among a quartet of R&B/jazz singers to determine Joyner's replacement. First up is Week 1 contestant Phil Perry, followed by Tony Terry, Vesta and finally, Kashif. They've all had some national recording success, but Fly wants to know where's the local flavor. Some of us might actually be interested in hearing some Charlotte-type personalities in the audition derby. But, Fly's going to be honest here: Vesta's bubbly enough to win, but would she—or the guys, for that matter—be able to compete with Joyner for Joyner's faithful listeners? We'll find out in four weeks.

• The Lord helps those who help themselves, and Hood Theological Seminary helped itself last week.

The seminary announced its purchase of the Days Inn in Salisbury with the intention of turning the property into a campus. The buyout is part of Hood's campaign to expand its campus, so don't try to bunk out along I-85 and Jake Alexander Boulevard anytime soon.