

National Black Church Initiative

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The National Black Church Initiative Asks Massachusetts State Attorney General To Launch A Comprehensive Investigation Into The Lack Of Cancer Treatment Services For African Americans

This is why there are health disparities

Washington DC – The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) a faith-based coalition of 34,000 churches comprised of 15 denominations and 15.7 million African Americans, asks Attorney General Maura Healey to launch a comprehensive investigation into the lack of cancer treatment services available for African Americans in the State of Massachusetts. In 2017, the National Black Church Initiative wrote all the federally funded cancer centers in the country through the National Cancer Institute (NCI), including Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, to extend an opportunity to partner with us around the issue of African Americans in clinical trials and cancer treatments. We went rebuffed and ignored.

Rev. Anthony Evans, President of the National Black Church Initiative says, “I am saddened that I have to spend my time doing this. I would rather be engaged with Dana-Farber in creating a comprehensive strategy to get blacks engaged in the areas of clinical trials, community outreach, education and distribution of information but the Black Church will never forsake its commitments to its members.”

We strongly believe that cancer centers such as Dana-Farber systematically deny African Americans advanced treatment and cancer therapy. We base this upon our efforts to engage them and our member churches in the State of Massachusetts. In other words, based on the monies that they receive from the National Cancer Institute and other federal entities, we do not believe they are doing all that they can to attract and serve African American cancer patients.

We can verify this through the death rates of African Americans and whites in the state of Massachusetts using a comparative analysis. Simply put, they are breaking the law. Therefore, we have asked Attorney General Healey to launch a comprehensive investigation into how those federal dollars are spent and allocated, and why Dana-Farber consistently comes up short for treating African Americans every year for the past ten years in every single category starting in the area of recruitment and referrals to advance cancer treatment.

As a result of their negligence, hundreds of African Americans suffer needlessly and die because cancer centers such as Dana-Farber refuse to launch a comprehensive community outreach to engage African Americans into clinical trial events and new cancer therapies, especially those older African American patients in stage 3 of their cancer diagnosis. Dana-Farber refuses to partner with organizations such as NBCI to help identify those individuals in Massachusetts who rightfully deserve those treatments based upon federal rules and regulations and State laws. A look at Hospital and HMO annual reports from the last four years will show that they are statistically not doing all that they can do.

About NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 34,000 African American and Latino Churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment. NBCI's mission is to provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, Churches and the public. Our methodology is utilizing faith and sound health science.

NBCI's purpose is to partner with major organizations and officials whose main mission is to reduce racial disparities in the variety of areas cited above. NBCI offers faith-based, out-of-the-box and cutting edge solutions to stubborn economic and social issues. NBCI's programs are governed by credible statistical analysis, science based strategies and techniques, and methods that work. Visit our website at www.naltBlackChurch.com.