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I N   A S S E M B L Y

April 12, 2016

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Introduced by M. of A. ARROYO -- read once and referred to the Committee  
on Health

AN ACT to establish a Minority Coordinating Council on Asthmatic Affairs

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as  
2     the "Lydia Soto law".

3     S 2. Legislative findings and intent. According to the American Lung  
4     Association, there are over 1.6 million New Yorkers with asthma, with  
5     over 380,000 of them being children. The annual cost of asthma is esti-  
6     mated to be nearly 18 billion dollars. Access to health care for ethnic  
7     minorities is often hampered by socio-economic disparities, shortages of  
8     primary care physicians in minority communities, language and literacy  
9     barriers, and cultural beliefs about the role and usefulness of medi-  
10    cines. There have emerged clear disparities in the burden and treatment  
11    of asthma in the communities of ethnic minorities. The burden of asthma  
12    falls disproportionately on the African-American and Hispanic popu-  
13    lations, and especially on children of these ethnic minorities. There-  
14    fore, it is the intent of this legislature to create a coordinating  
15    council to address these issues and to improve awareness and management  
16    of asthma prevention and treatment for minorities in this state.

17    S 3. The commissioner of health shall establish a Minority Coordinat-  
18    ing Council on Asthmatic Affairs. The commissioner shall appoint as many  
19    members as he or she determines appropriate. Such members shall be  
20    representative of those regions of the state with significant minority  
21    populations and shall include health care professionals with knowledge  
22    and experience in the prevention and treatment of asthma and in the  
23    areas of public health care funding. The council shall be tasked with:  
24    (a) assessing the asthma risk factors for the minority citizens of this  
25    state, its counties and regions; (b) identifying the existing barriers  
26    to quality asthma treatment and care among minorities; (c) developing  
27    action steps for addressing care issues; and (d) launching a state-wide  
28    asthma awareness campaign to educate citizens about the disease, its  
29    symptoms, and the ability to better manage asthma through prevention and

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

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1 treatment. The council shall deliver an annual report addressing various  
2 asthma program successes, new trends, data and issues surrounding minor-  
3 ity populations suffering from asthma to the governor and the legisla-  
4 ture beginning September 1, 2020, and annually thereafter.

5 S 4. This act shall take effect immediately.