

National Hispanic Leadership Agenda

July 25, 2017

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), the coalition of the nation's 45 preeminent Latino advocacy organizations, we urge you to vote against efforts to repeal the ACA, primarily because Hispanics face the prospect of enduring a steep decline in access to affordable health care should this bill become law. NHLA will closely monitor votes on efforts to repeal the ACA including the Procedure to Vote to Repeal the ACA and a possible Vote on the Repeal the ACA House Bill and consider their inclusion in future NHLA congressional scorecards or other informational outreach efforts.

Following enactment of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), 4.2 million Latinos gained health insurance coverage. The Latino uninsured rate has fallen to a record low of 16.2 percent, and down to 7.5 percent among Latino children.

We believe, based on CBO reviews, efforts to repeal the ACA will decrease access to health care in the following ways:

- Medicaid would be changed to a block grant or per capita cap program that would lead to decreased federal funds for the poor, disabled, elderly, and pregnant. This would force more people to purchase insurance through the individual market or to go without insurance altogether. It would also restrict employment opportunities, as workers would need to find employers who offer affordable insurance.
- States would be allowed to seek waivers from federal Medicaid support that would introduce barriers to access such as work requirements and redefinition of essential benefits such as mental health, oral health, and women's health screenings.
- Age rating ratios would be increased from to 5 to 1 resulting in more expensive insurance for older enrollees (50 years of age when chronic diseases tend to be diagnosed) compared to youth.

The Public Health and Prevention Fund and the Planned Parenthood programs would be eliminated that maintain the health of millions of Americans. Of note, birth control, cancer screenings, and STD testing and treatment would be blocked from Medicaid funding of Planned Parenthood health centers which have played a vital role in ensuring quality reproductive healthcare for low-income women and women of color, including Latinas.

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alianza Americas
American G.I. Forum
ASPIRA Association
Avance Inc.
Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network
Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute
Farmworker Justice
Green Latinos
Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities
Hispanic Federation
Hispanic National Bar Association
Inter-University Program for Latino Research
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
LatinoJustice PRLDEF
League of United Latin American Citizens
MANA, A National Latina Organization
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
Mi Familia Vota
National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures
National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives
National Association of Hispanic Publications
National Day Laborer Organizing Network
NALEO Educational Fund
National Association of Latino Independent Producers
National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Inc.
National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators
National Hispanic Council on Aging
National Hispanic Environmental Council
National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts
National Hispanic Media Coalition
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Institute for Latino Policy
National Latina/o Psychological Association
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
Presente.org
SER Jobs for Progress National
Southwest Voter Registration Education Project
UnidosUS
United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
United States Hispanic Leadership Institute
United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce
U.S.- Mexico Foundation
Voto Latino

- Any attacks on Planned Parenthood health centers and other abortion providers threaten to unravel the reproductive health safety net that our Latino/a community relies on for trusted care. In 2014 alone, 23 percent of Planned Parenthood patients were Latino — over half a million people. For many Latinas, Planned Parenthood health centers and other family planning clinics are the only healthcare providers they will see.
- Efforts to repeal the ACA would permanently exclude abortion coverage from health plans on the health insurance marketplaces, depriving Latinas of the access to affordable, comprehensive health insurance.

In summary, NHLA believes efforts to repeal the ACA will drastically decrease access to much needed health care in our community and we therefore urge you to oppose passage of this bill. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact NHLA through Ann Marie Benitez, Senior Director of Government Relations, National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health at annmarie@latinainstitute.org or Elena Rios, MD, President & CEO, National Hispanic Medical Association.

Sincerely,



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President & CEO,
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