

National Hispanic Leadership Agenda

October 4, 2017

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: NHLA Opposition to H. Con. Res. 71, the House Budget Resolution

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), a coalition of the nation's preeminent Latino advocacy organizations, **we strongly urge you to vote against H. Con. Res. 71, the Fiscal Year 2018 House Budget Resolution. NHLA will closely monitor votes on the FY18 House Budget Resolution for inclusion in future NHLA scorecards evaluating Members' support for the Latino community.**

The House Budget Resolution runs counter to NHLA's budget priorities. Rather than seek to bolster opportunities for American working families, the resolution threatens the basic living standards of tens of millions of Americans in order to subsidize tax cuts for the wealthy few. From education and scientific research to basic assistance and health programs such as Medicaid (which serves 18 million Latinos) the House Budget Resolution would cut over \$5 trillion from federal spending, crippling the most important drivers of our nation's economic engine – working families.

Cuts to federal programs would severely and disproportionately hurt low- and moderate-income families, especially the millions of Latino families who utilize these programs to have a chance at the American Dream. For example, the House Budget Resolution would cut the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)—the nation's largest anti-hunger program—by \$150 billion and would slash the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, refundable tax credits, and other income security supports by \$500 billion, devastating millions of working families. Programs serving low- and moderate-income people account for half of the plan's budget cuts, even though federal spending on these families represent only about a quarter of annual non-defense discretionary funding.

The trillions of dollars of cuts to federal program in the House Budget Resolution would have a catastrophic impact on the millions of Latinos who struggle to put food on their tables and a roof over their heads. Recent research by UnidosUS (formerly NCLR) provides evidence of the strong impact of federal assistance programs on lifting millions of Latinos, especially children, out of poverty. In 2015, for example:

- The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) lifted about 2.7 million Latinos out of poverty, including 1.4 million children.
- The Child Tax Credit (CTC) lifted an estimated 981,000 Latinos out of poverty, including 560,000 children.

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

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) lifted an estimated 1.3 million Latinos out of poverty, including 640,000 children.
- Rental assistance lifted about 720,000 Latinos out of poverty, including 270,000 children.
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) lifted an estimated 630,000 Latinos out of poverty, including 140,000 children.
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) lifted approximately 190,000 Latinos out of poverty, including an estimated 100,000 children.
- The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) lifted an estimated 40,000 Latinos out of poverty, including approximately 20,000 children

The House Budget Resolution fails to promote equity, reflect the values of our society, or lay a foundation that stabilizes the lives of low- and moderate-income Americans, especially Latino working families. NHLA strongly urges Members of Congress to safeguard the interests of the American public by opposing the House Budget Resolution. Instead, Members of Congress should support a budget designed to create opportunity for working families and that does not leave the most vulnerable members of our community behind.

If you have any questions regarding NHLA's position on the House Budget Resolution, please do not hesitate to contact NHLA through Renato Rocha at rrocha@unidosus.org.

Sincerely,



Hector E. Sanchez
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American Advancement (LCLAA)
Chair, NHLA



Bruce Goldstein
President, Farmworker Justice
Co-Chair, NHLA
Economic Empowerment and Labor Committee



Eric Rodriguez
Vice President, UnidosUS
Co-Chair, NHLA Economic Empowerment and Labor Committee