

National Hispanic Leadership Agenda

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
H-204 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

November 14, 2017

Dear Speaker Ryan and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA)—the coalition of the nation’s 45 preeminent Latino advocacy organizations— **we urge you to oppose the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (H.R. 1).** NHLA will closely monitor votes on this House tax plan for inclusion in future NHLA scorecards evaluating Representatives’ support for the Latino community.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act undermines the progress our country has made since the Great Recession by prioritizing corporate interests over those of hardworking American families. Our nation’s richest individuals and largest corporations get a tax cut—at least \$1.5 trillion to the top one percent—while working families and children will find it harder to make ends meet. Corporations would see their tax rate drop from 35% to 20% and households with incomes above \$500,000 would get about 45% of the bill’s tax cuts. Meanwhile, up to 38 million middle-class families will see their taxes raised.

If offset by entitlement cuts, these tax giveaways to the rich would be paid for by cutting key federal assistance programs. From nutrition and rental assistance to refundable tax credits, these federal programs keep millions of Latinos out of poverty and help provide basic living standards for Americans struggling to stay healthy, put food on their table, and keep a roof over their heads. Reduced funding for these programs will jeopardize the health and well-being of 18 million Latinos and 10.7 million Latino children who rely on Medicare and/or Medicaid. It will also place an additional 6.3 million Latinos, including 3 million Latino children and 351,000 Latino seniors, who obtain critical federal benefits at risk of falling into poverty.

Further, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is an attack on taxpaying immigrants and their children. This legislation threatens to restrict immigrant taxpayers’ eligibility for refundable credits that keep working families out of poverty like the Child Tax Credit (CTC), Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), and American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC) by requiring individuals to have work-authorized Social Security numbers. This provision would result in the loss of credits for certain immigrants who make significant tax contributions and who are now legally eligible to claim these refundable credits. Eliminating immigrant taxpayers’ eligibility for the CTC would threaten the economic security of nearly 4 million U.S. citizen Latino children whose parents file with an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN). This would push many children and their families into poverty: in 2015, the CTC kept nearly 1 million Latinos out of poverty, including over 560,000 Latino 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 House tax plan would cut taxes for the richest Americans and largest corporations, balloon the deficit, and put tens of millions of working families, seniors, and children, including millions of Latinos, at risk of falling into poverty. For this reason, the House tax plan is fundamentally unfair and unduly harmful to millions of people who contribute to this nation's stability and prosperity. NHLA strongly urges you to oppose this bill and instead work together to create a tax reform plan that ensures everyone pays their fair share, supports working families, and increases investments so that all have a brighter future.

If you have any questions regarding NHLA's position on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (H.R. 1), please do not hesitate to contact NHLA through Renato Rocha at rrocha@unidosus.org.

Sincerely,



Hector E. Sanchez Barba
Executive Director, Labor Council for Latin
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